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A

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Canace canadensis 6
Charadrius virginicus 44
Calidris arenaria 102
Cygnus americanus 155
Chaulelasmus streperus 170
Cymochorea leucorrhoa 277
Colymbus torquatus 286
" " arcticus 290
" " septentrionalis 291

D

Dafila acuta 171

CD EF GH IJ KL MN OP QR ST UV WX YZ

E

F

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J J

I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

K

L

M

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Uria grylle 295

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W X

Xema cabinea 258

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Zenaidura carolinensis 4

Ectopistes migratoria.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.
Sept. 9. A flock of about forty migrating.

1870.

July 6. A young female feeding on currants in our garden, very tame.

Sept.2-10. Migrating over Cambridge in immense flocks for three or four days, roosting in pine woods.

1875.

Apr. 23. Shot a male in Waltham; he was alone, sitting in an oak by the roadside.

May 8. Shot a female at Concord. One of eight sitting in an oak in high dry woodland.

" 22. Towne found a Wld Pigeons nest containing one egg, in Weston.

" 24. A female in Waverly.

Sept. 9. Shot a ~~sitting bird in~~ single bird sitting the top of a dead tree in the Fresh Pond marshes.

1876.

Sept.30. One in the road near Walden Pond was so tame that my horse nearly stepped on it before it flew (Concord).

Oct. 7. A pair on the Assabet River, Concord.

1879.
July 29. A pair flying together near Fifty Acre Meadow (Concord).

Ectoistes migratoria.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1871.
May 30-
June 10. Common and seen nearly every day, sometimes in pairs often in flocks of twenty or more.

1873.

Aug. 29. Saw several small flocks along the wooded banks of Cambridge River above the dam.

Sept. 1. Abundant and now collecting into large flocks.

1874.

Aug. 1. Shot an adult male in fine plumage.

" 4. Started three along the brook on Upton Hill.

" 10. Saw a pair flying over, high.

" 11. Saw several along Peasleo's Brook.

" 18. Saw a flock of about thirty flying over the woods near Leonard's Pond.

" 19. In the blueberry pasture opposite Peasleo's, found a flock of about a dozen.

" 2 . Killed two from a flock of about twenty-five in the pasture opposite Peasleo's. They come there for the blueberries and raspberries and are very tame. Their flight at times is swifter than that of any other bird that I know, and their habit of scaling and twisting then passing through the woods makes them very difficult to shoot.

1882.
Oct.8-22. One seen October 8; it is very rare here.

Ectipistes migratoria.

1866.

Aug. 30. Saw five flying together (West Amesbury, Mass.).

1870.

July 1. Started a young female in beach grass (Muskegat Island, Mass.).

Sept. 2-10. Abundant frequenting grain stubbles in large flocks. When started they alighted in the dead stubs bordering the fields. They were rather tame and extremely graceful in their attitudes. Their flight when passing from one tree to another was often slow and labored but when bound for some distant point they flew with extraordinary swiftness. Large flocks often alighted in the tops of beaches, where it was very difficult to see them in the dense foliage (Forks of the Kennebec, Maine).

1874.

Jan. 14. A professional Pigeon snarer whom I met to-day in Boston, gave me the following information concerning this bird: All the Pigeons in the United States, excepting a few straggling pairs or small communities, collect yearly now in one immense breeding colony. If persecuted to an excessive degree the breeding place is deserted and another begun a hundred miles or more distant. The largest colony he has ever seen, was one which he visited in 1872 on the eastern shore of Lka e Michigan. It was twenty miles long by six to seven miles in width. He believes that the birds are increasing and accounts for it by the increase of the supply of cereal food.

Apr. 16. The Boston markets are now overflowing with Wild Pigeons which are said to come from Missouri. The market men obtain perfect eggs from the female birds which they sell to collectors.

Zenaidura carolinensis.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Sept.18. One flying over the Brickyard Swamp.

" 19. One in the Brickyard Swamp. Probably the same bird seen yesterday.

1876.
Oct. 27. Shot a male at Concord. It rose some distance ahead among scattered birches, and passed me, flying ~~sw~~ swiftly down wind. It fell through the branches of a birch, and before reaching the ground was almost entirely stripped of feathers.

Zenaidura carolinensis.

1867.
Sept.2-7. Small flocks frequented a long sandy point that separates the harbor from the bay. They were shy but could be approached when among the rank beach-grass. When startled they rose with a sharp whirring sound (Plymouth,Mass.).

1871.
Oct.18-20. We frequently started them from old fields grown up to weeds (Marston's Mills,Mass.).

1874.
June 18. Only two seen (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

1875.
Oct. 20. Shot one (Marston's Mills,Mass).

1876.
May 15. One (Chatham,Mass.).

Canace canadensis.

1872

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

June -- Gideon Stone, one of the early settlers of this region tells me that he has frequently seen the Spruce Grouse drum. He describes the performance as follows: The male springs from the ground vibrating its wings rapidly and rises at an incline of about 45° to some horizontal branch ten or twelve feet above the ground, where it rests a moment and then returns to the ground on about the same incline also drumming as it descends. The sound thus produced is much like that of the Ruffed Grouse but lacks the preliminary, disconnected thuds, andis altogether shorter, more hurried, and not as loud, although it may be heard a considerable distance in still weather.

1873.

June 28. An adult female with a chick about five days old were brought to me alive by one of the guides who took them on the Tyler Path. He said that there were ten young in the brood. He snared the female in the usual manner with a nooseof twine attached to the end of a short pole, passing the noose over her head.

Aug.13. Two young birds, a male and female in first plumage and about half grown, were killed on the Tyler Path, and brought to me. Their crops contained raspberries, blueberries, checkerberries, fir buds, and needles.

1874.

July 28. Among the thickly growing young firs and spruces behind the mill, I came upon a brood of young Spruce Grouse about as large as Quail. They rose t with a heavy whirring to the tops of the low firs where they sat watching me, uttering occasionally a low whistling noise. The mother, also alighted on a fir near by and called incessantly kruck-kruck,krrr-kruck to her young . Approaching her cautiously I actually got near enough to prod her in the breast with the muzzle of my gun pushing her off the branch, when she flew rapidly with a loud whirring to another small tree and allowed me to approach quite as near again. Upon my withdrawing a few yards she began to call again, and the young birds answering she shortly after took wing and alighted among them. In flight and general altitudes I noticed nothing very different from those of the Ruffed Grouse. The young looked very like those of that bird at a corresponding age.

July 31. Came upon the same brood seen on the 28th, in the spruces behind the mill. One of the young, the largest, walked out along a spruce limb with his tail erected like a turkey cock's, calling continuously in nearly the same tones as his mother.

Canace canadensis.

1874.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

(Aug.20) Shot a female which I flushed in a tangle of raspberry bushes in a perfectly open pasture on the side of Upton Hill, nearly one hundred yards from the edge of the woods, which for a long distance in, were composed exclusively of hard woods.

" 24. Killed a very fine adult male on the road to the Sluice.

" 28. While walking quietly along the Tyler Path just beyond the bog I happened to look up and discovered two young Spruce Grouse sitting in the branches of small larb directly over my head, one with neck outstretched, the other squatted close on the limb. They sat perfectly motionless, their statuesque figures framed by the delicate green foliage which surrounded them. After watching them a moment I shot one and missed the other as it flew. The bird killed had its crop filled with larch needles.

Sept. 4. Leaving the Tyler Path to pick up a bird that I had shot I came suddenly upon an old male Spruce Grouse. As he stood on a little knoll in a clump of bunck berries with a stray sumbeam lighting up his dark plumage he presented a most beautiful appearance and I looked at him several; moments before shooting. Henry Douglass killed another, a fine male in fall plymage.

" 11. A very fine adult male shot on the Tyler Path.

1876.

June 14. Between the entrance to the Tyler Path and the bog I came upon a fine male Spruce Grouse. He rose from the path with a faint flutter and alighted in a low alder. I watched him for some time and noticed that the red space over the eye was very conspicuous; that he held his tail high with the under covert striking down below it; and that he turned his head very slowly and steadily ~~and slowly~~ as if it were moved by automatic machinery. At length I turned to walk away to fair shooting distance when he immediately took wing, flying directly after me along the path and actually alighting within six feet of my heels. The next moment afterwards, however, he skulked into the bushes and again flew to a low limb where I shot him.

1879.

May 24. In the woods immediately behind the house, I discovered a female Spruce Grouse sitting erect near the trunk of a spruce. After a moment she walked deliberately out along the limb and began to feed. Plucking mouthfuls of needles with a quick, nervous motion.

Canace canadensis.

1879.

Maine (Lake Mbagog)

(May 30) Oscar Moss who has often seen this grouse drum described it as follows: The male flies straight upward from the ground to the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and as it descends produces a muffled roll exactly like the closing part of the ruffed grouse's. The favorite haunts of this grouse here are said to be larch swamps.

1886.
May 19. Alva Coolidge tells me that a nest containing thirteen eggs was found several years since in the open end of a hollow log in the larch bog on Hollidgewalk Stream.

Bonaza umbella.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1866.
May 19. Nest with ten eggs.

1867.
Nov. 30. Found a place yesterday where several had roosted on a low scrubby pine; visited the spot to-day and by the signs judged they had passed the night there also.

1868.

Feb. 1. My dog flushed one in the Pine Swamp that was apparently lying under the snow. Upon shooting and dissecting it I found its crop filled with buds (with parts of the stems attached)--maple buds predominating.

Oct. 24. A bird came into Fresh Pond this afternoon which I took for a Rudy Duck. It passed entirely around the pond, a distance of at least a mile and a half, flying at a height of about twenty feet above water, then pitched into the oak woods lining the shore. Upon following it I found it to be a Ruffed Grouse.

1870.

Apr. 27. Nest with one egg which the female sat on till nearly stepped upon. The locality was the edge of a small open grove near a house, and with farmers working close at hand. The nest was placed in a slight hollow at the foot of a tree, and was composed of leaves and the abdominal feathers of the parent bird. I visited the place at intervals till May 17 when she finished her laying of ten eggs and began to incubate them. While sitting she would remain perfectly motionless until my hand was within a few inches of her tail, not so much as moving a feather or rolling her fiery eyes; then with a startling suddenness would rise directly from the nest with the usual loud whiring. Whenever I found her absent from the nest the eggs were always covered up in the most careful manner.

May 23. Nest eleven fresh eggs.

1871.
June 17. Two broods of young, although not larger than a Bluebird they rose easily, uttering a cheeping cry, and flying a hundred yards or more alighted in low trees or bushes. The mother was very bold approaching within a few yards and making a noise precisely like the whining of a dog; also clucking rapidly.

1872.
Feb. 22. Started forty in Concord and Carlisle.

Bonasa umbella.

1874

Middlesex County, Mass.

Sept.23. Started twelve at Concord.

" 24. One started by my dog flew up and alighted in a birch where I shot it.

" 25. Started four over the same ground hunted yesterday; several birds left yesterday were, however, gone to-day, a fact which confirms Melvin's idea that they have already begun their migration.

Nov. 9. Shot a female in a cedar tree in Watertown. She sat perfectly still with out stretched neck and feathers drawk close.

" 18. Four, which I found in mixed cedars and birches near the Waverly mill-pond, lay as closely as Woodcock my setter getting steady points on all but one. This unusual behavior was probably due to the fact that a rain last ni ght had thoroughly wetted the leaves and under-growth.

Dec. 5. Started seventeen in Western; they were nearly all found in alder runs and most of them lay nearly as well as Quail. In one place our dogs made five consecutive peints on birds in a little open meadow among tussocks.

" 29. Started about twenty in Lincoln.

" 30. We started forty-eight in Concord and killed ten. Many of them were found in very open ground. One which was distinctly seen to alight in a thick white pine could not be either seen or frightened out probably appreciating the perfect concealment afforded by the thick branches. One shot through the head towered to a great height and fell within a hundred yards of us.

1875.

Feb. 10. Found signs of one in an old stump at Watertown. It had haunted this locality all winter.

Apr. 27. One drumming on a stone wall in Lexington. I started him but returning an hour later found him drumming in the same place, where, indeed, I remember hearing one (perhaps the same bird) four years ago. I believe they use a particular rock, mound, or log every season.
Shooted ten of them known to-day.

May 27. A male drumming.

June 14. A female with young; she fluttered along the ground making a piteous whining exactly like that of a dog crying for admission at a closed door. I could find only one chick which was apparently about a week old.

Bonasa umbella.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(June 21). A female with a brood of about a dozen young feeding in the road, in Lincoln. The young--pretty little fellows--ran about precisely inn the manner of newly-hatched chickens. Sometimes one would pick up a seed or other choice morsal and start off, hotly pursued by two or three envious, but less fortunate companions. The old hen walked slowly along, keeping her body erect, and once hopped on a fallen log where she called out cruck, cr-r-r-r-uck to collect her scattered brood which came running in from all directions in obedience to the summons. When I approached they all took wing (although they could not have been more than a week old) alighting in low bushes and along the tops of stone walls I concealed myself and after a few moments they began to lisp in a high anxious key scree, scree, screep.

Sept. 7. As usual in September next to none are to be found. Melvin started only one in a long tramp at Concord last week.

Nov. 5. Heard one drum eight or ten times in succession ((Belmont).

" 12. Started seven in Belmont.

" 13. One started in Belmont. Upon being fired at it mounted into the air at the height of several hundred feet and literally flew out of sight across the open country.

" 19. Two of these Grouse rose from a patch of briars and wild-rose bushes not exceeding six feet square, in the middle of a perfectly open field; they lay close as we passed within a few feet of them and flew after we had got out of gun-shot.

Dec. 2. Started one in the Maple Swamp, and two in the Pine Swamp, killing both the latter. The first of the three rose within twenty yards of me. It did not make the slightest whirring although the air was perfectly still and the bird rose with rather more than the usual celerity. The second bird, a fine adult female after being flushed twice in the tangled thickets bordering Pout Pond flew out among the tall pines and suddenly sweeping upward alighted on a dead limb, some thirty feet above the ground where I shot it. It s position was rather unusual, the body being nearly horizontal and the neck not particularly stretched out.

" 3. Started thirty-five in Concord, and killed four. They are exceedingly tenacious of life at this season. One at which eight shots were fired, struck forcibly into a birch, and came fluttering nearly to the ground, when recovering itself, towered to the height of about one hundred yards and went off over the woods apparently

Bonasa umbella.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Dec.3) as well as ever. We finally saw it strike into a pine at least a quarter of a mile from the place where it started, and upon going to the place found it nearly a hundred yards beyond. Both eyes were pierced by the shot one leg was broken and blood flowed from several wounds in the body. Another bird had both legs and the end of one wing nearly stripped of feathers, yet it flew about the usual distance and started again from a pine with nearly as much vigor as at first. Most of these Grouse were found in alder-runs. They flew directly to the thickets pines and generally alighted in them If we passed under, or nearly under, the tree the bird would usually out fly getting under way with marvelous rapidity. The crops of two which I examined contained chiefly clover leaves with a few cranberries and acorns.

" 9. Shot a fine male in a swamp in Belmont. His crop was crammed with the berries of the privet and the wild-rose.

" 6. Shot a female in the Pine Swamp.

" 14. Started three in an alder run. They were lying within a few yards of one another. The first rose literally beneath my feet, the second a few yards ahead, the third rather wild.

" 31. Started twenty-five between Robbins's mills and Concord bagging six to two guns. The day was still and warm and most of these Grouse were found in very open situations. Several lay very closely. One in al alder run was steadily pointed by my setter and when finally started rose within four feet of his nose. They are wonderfully tenacious of life at this season. All six of our birds were secured by being wing-tipped, though, with one exception, all were more or less shot in the body and one literally riddled with No. 7 shot. One upon being shot at pitched headlong to the earth but when within four feet of it recovered himself and striking into a small pine fluttered through it, then struck another, and so on till out of sight, his progress through the woods being marked by the sound of his wings. Still another, mortally wounded, stalked slowly over the ground in a dignified manner occasionally lowering his head as if feeding and at every step jetting his tail gracefully. Upon approaching him we found that in addition to a broken wing he was shot mortally through the body and at each downward movement of the head crimson drops of blood fell on the leaves beneath. Had his wings been uninjured he would probably have hurdled off over the birches out of sight. Nearly all the birds started within flying distance of pines directly to them and alightedin the trees. In such cases, unless the pine is a very tall one the bird invariably flies when you are nearly under him

Bonasa umbella.

1876.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Mar. 11. Started about five in Lincoln.

Sept.28. A Grouse at Concord rose from an open field and alighted in a birch by the roadside. As I approached it started again and flying down the road a few rods, turned sharply into the yard of a farm house and alighted on the top rail of an old- hay-rigging standing directly in front of the farmers door. As I approach a third time it again started crossing the road and disappearing in the pine grove

Oct. 11. In Concord my setter pointed a Grouse which rose thirty yards ahead and flying only a few rods dropped to the ground again and began running. Upon shooting it I found it a mere skeleton, though in fine plumage. I examined it carefully but failed to find any mark of injury.

" 24. One in Waldon woods stalked proudly across the woodpath in front of my horse.

" 25. They are getting more numerous at Concord. Started five.

" 26. Started six at Concord.

Dec. 11. In the Pine Swamp I tracked one some distance in the snow. At length it doubled and under the cover of some fallen brush passed me within twenty yards and rose behind me. That it did this with desigh as clearly shown by its long hurried strides imprinted in the snow.

" 14. I have started one or two Grouse daily of late in the Fresh Pond swamps. The ground has been covered with moist snow, and in tracking them I find that they frequently associate with Qail, running and feeding with them. This I have previously suspected from the fact that the two species are so often started near together.

1881.

Oct. 21. On Concord River one flew from a hillside and crossed the river directly in front of the boat.

Bonasa umbella.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1873.
Sept.10. Came upon a flock of six on the banks of Cambridge River. They were so tame that I easily killed them all, shooting four in succession with my rifle.

1874.

Aug. 4. Started five broods of young all about half-grown. Tey were all very tame. Most of them took to the trees when started and several made curious demonstrations, apparently of anger at my intrusion, ruffling their feathers, jerking their tails, and making a whistling and grunting noise. One of the old birds lay very closely before my setters point, squatting on the bare turf in a little opening not two yards ahead of him.

" 6. Saw two large broods of young on the Tyler Path.

" 24. Saw three broods on the road to the Sluice all unusually shy. One brood of about a dozen rose from a bed of brakes in an open clearing, going up one after another.

Sept.19. On the road to Bethel our team passed under one sitting on the branch of a poplar over the road, and so near that I could almost reach her with my hand.

1876.
June 22. A brood of young, apparently just hatched, following the mother through the woods.

1880.

June 22. All the hunters here believe that the male Ruffed Grouse frequently takes charge of a brood of young. Alva Coolidge to-day came across such a family and he is certain that the parent in charge was a male. He also thinks that these birds regularly pair. That this is the case with the Spruce Grouse is unanimously asserted here. The woodsmen always find the paired birds together in the spring.

Sept.17. Coming down Cambridge River this evening we started two Grouse from a Viburnum ludum on the bank. They feed much on the berries of this bush this season.

1882.
Oct.8-22 Abundant. They feed on birch buds, poplar leaves, leaves of Oxalis, berries of Viburnum opulus and mountain ash, and grasshoppers.

1874.
Sept.14. My setter pointed a brood of six among some weeds in an open fields nearly an hund red yards from the edge of the woods.

Bonasa umbella.

1869.
July &
Aug. Said to be numerous but I saw none (Glen House,N.H.)

1870.
July 30. Heard a male drumming it is said to be numerous here (Profile House,N.H.

1876.

Dec. 5. Started seven, several of which lay very closely (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

" 9. They feed out in the open stubbles and weeds fields here morning and evening, a lmost as regularly as the Qail (Marston's Mills, Mass).

Ortyx virginianus.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Mar

Mar. 22. Saw a flock of six running about a bunch of weeds and brush near the side of the road. They have probably suffered severely during the winter.

Apr. 3. Flushed a covey of aboyt six in low swampy woods.

" 22. One singing "Bob White".

" 27. Started a covey of eight; although we marked them closely we could not afterwards find one.

July 1. They probably were not diminished as much as supposed, by the heavy snow of last winter for the "Bob White" of the male can now be heard in all directions.

Nov. 24. A bevy of about a dozen.

" 25. Found the same bevy again to-day.

1869.

Nov. 15. Noticed to-day for the first time, the wonderful ventriloqual powers of this bird. Having started a bevy I waited until they had tun together again, and guided by their whistlings, crept up to within about twenty yards. Their loud cries still continued, seeming to come from a small clump of bushes directly in front of me, when suddenly they sounded more distant, although as loud as e ver. In a few moments I judged from the sound that they were several hundred yards off, and increasing the distance rapidly, but hardly had I started to follow them, when they all rose within a few yards of me.

1870.

Apr. 16. Still in flocks; started a bevy of seven to-day.

1871.

Apr. 26. A bevy of a dozen started in Belmont (Atkinson).

May 16. Heard the "Bob White" of the male for the first time.

1872.

May 18. A pair rustling through the dry grass and bushes at the end of the Willows, literally within reach of the whip as I sat in my buggy. They are always exceedingly tame at this season.

" 28. One singing "Bob White ".

Ortyx virginianus.

1874.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Sept.25. A large brood of young about the size of field mice accompanied by both parents. The female ran along in front of our dog risin g and flying a few yards at a time.

Oct. 23. Started a small bevy in Concord; we distinctly saw them alight in an open hucklyberry ~~bus~~ pasture, but although supplied with two good dogs, succeeded in starting only one of them.

Nov. 13. A small bevy basking in the sun in a little sheltered nook byvthe roadside. When flushed about half of them alighted in an open mowing field although this was bordered on both sides by dense thickets. Here they lay very closely although giving out no scent.

Dec. 12. Started a bevy of ten which lit on an oak knoll in a meadow. He could find only three of them although the remainder were afterwards heard in the very spot we had beaten so carefully. I have seen many clear cases of this season of this birds power of withholding its scent. The more a bevy is hunted and its numbers thinned the more closely do the survivers lie and the more persistently do they hold their scent.

1875.

May 1. Heard a male calling "Bob White" in Newtonville.

" 4. Started a bevy of five in Waltham on the evening of

" 6. A beevy of ten by the roadside, running in single file through a break in a stone wall. Seven of them were females.

June 16. One in the road in Waltham easily kept along ahead of my horse for some distance without using its wings although I was going at aspeed of at least ten miles an hour.

Nov. 12. Started a large bevy in Belmont. They flew a long distance and began to whistle almost as soon as they alighted.

" 17. A large bevy in Belmont separated when started, half going one way and half the other; the wind was dlowing almost a hurricane and the birds that started against it made very slow progress and alighted within a hundred yards.

Dec. 9. Brought home two wing-broken birds shot in Belmont, and kept them alive in a cage through the following winter. Their wings healed perfectly and I turned them loose in the spring.

Ortyx virginianus.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Dec.10.) Started a bevy of ten by the roadside; they took to the Waverly woods where they acted very badly, rising wild and giving out little if any scent.

" 14. Bevy of about twenty-five in Belmont in the thickets at the east end of the Willows. Three which we killed were the largest birds of this species that I have ever seen. All lay very close and all gave out scent freely. One sought refuge in a stone wall where my setter pointed it; my companion thrust in his arm and actually touched the bird before it took wing.

(June14. Unusually abundant. I see or hear them nearly every day. Sometimes the male calls "Bob White" ten or twelve times in succession, without the slightest intermision between the notes. They are very noisy now and their love season apparently at its height; all the fall notes also freely used at this season.

1876.

Sept.28. Two bevies at Concord, the birds in one nearly full grown, those of the other not larger than Song Sparrows.

Oct. 22. While driving shortly after sunset, a small bevy of Quail crossed the road, flying close past my horses head and pitched down altogether in some alders. They were evidently flying to roost after their evening feat.

Nov. 9. Started a bevy in the Maple Swamp near Block Island.

Dec. 12. Tracked a bevy in the snow in the swamp beyond Block Island. They finally separated about oen half keeping to the swamp the remainder feeding out into the open where I found them.

" 13. Found three bevies in the Fresh Pond swamps. One containing fifteen birds, started in dense cover, flew directly out into the open marshes scattering and alighting in a scanty fringe of bushes bordering a ditch. Here they lay well each bird crouching under the fleecy masses of snow which, adhering to every branch and weed, formed inumerable tunnels and arches beneath. I tracked several into these hiding places for they usually ran a few steps before concealing themselves. It was very exciting coming ~~up a distant track~~ upon a distinct trakk leading directly under a tuft of grass where I knew the bird must be concealed. When I thrust on my boot the Quail would burst up through the snow, sending a shower of it flying in all directions. These Quail have probably come into the swamps lately, attracted, probably, by the abundant feed afforded by the night-shade vines now loaded with scarlet berries and the various rank weeds which abound in these covers.

Ortyx virginianus.

1876.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Dec.14.) Hunted over the same ground as yesterday. The Quail now thoroughly frightened, lay like stones when scattered and even when left for several hours were afraid to call.

1880.

Nov. 19. Shot ~~a bevy~~ several from a bevy at the east end of the Willows (Belmont). Like some killed on the same ground December 14,1875, they were all exceedingly large birds, and as on that ocasion, took exceptionally long flights and invariably settled in the meadow grass outside the bushes where they lay very closely. It was exilerating sport pursuing them. In the keen frosty air the fringe on my setter's tail became hung with beads of ice that tinkled musically as he galloped to and fro across the brown meadow.

Ortyx virginiana.

1874.

July 5. Said to have been formally abundant on Nantucket but have been exterminated several years ago by a severe winter.

Nov. 5. Started two bevies; one a very large one, took to the oak scrub where we could do nothing with them. At this season the birds spend much more of their time in the woods than in October and are hence harder to find; indeed, although supplied with two good dogs, we actually passed two-thirds of the bevies here.

" 6. Started four bevies. One containing at least thirty birds rose out of range from the roadside and took to the tangled oak scrub, where they would run hundreds of yards afterimmediately after being scattered, usually rise out of range, and frequently take to the trees. After hunting them the whole afternoon we killed only two (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

1875.

June 16. One heard in Stowe,Mass., two others at the foot of Mt.Wauchusett.

Oct. 19. A quail which we started took refuge in a house, flying into an open window and striking against a clothes horse which stood in front of the fire with such force as to throw "horse" and clothes to the hearth. The bird also fell to the floor; the owner of the house stooped to pick it up when it darted out again through the window and disappeared(Marston's Mills, Mass. For a more extended account see p.215 of Journal for 1875).

" (Started several bevies. All the birds killed were fine large ones, with the exception of one little fellow about half grown, which, curiously enough, was in company with a bevy of full-sized birds (Marston's Mills,Mass.).

" 19 & 20. An extended account of Quail shooting on Cape Cod under these dates pp.214-219 of my Journal for 1875).

1876.

Dec. 7. Killed the largest male that I have ever seen. He weighed exactly eight and one eighth ounces (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

" 8. Captain Baxter and I shot into a flock flying, each of us selecting single birds and unaccountably killed six , with our four barrels (Marston's Mills,Mass.).

" 9. A bevy of fourteen feeding on the snow in the middle of a field, forming a pretty picture. Wome were resting squatting in little groupson the spotless surface, others actively running about among the weeds, while one large male climbed up a few inches on a bending stalk and reaching up pecked at the seeds above his head (Marst on' Mills,Mass.

Ortyx virginiana.

1882.
(July 2). Mr.Ricker tells me that Quail were regularly killed every season near Poland Springs, Maine.

Ardea herodias.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Apr. 9. Saw three in the Pine Swamps with a large flock of Night Herons.

Sept.30. One flying south.

Oct. 10. Saw one.

" 17. One at Concord.

1870.

Apr. 22. One seen in Lexington (C.J.M.).

1871.

Apr. 26. Two seen at Concord (Carter).

Nov. 16. Shot an immature bird.

1872.

Apr. 9. One at Concord.

" 10. One at Belmont.

1876.

Oct. 12. Two (Concord River).

1882

Sept.28. On Concord River started four this evening; their picturesque forms loomed in the twilight so that they looked nearly double their real size.

Ardea herodias.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1872.
June 2. Gideon Stone visited a large Heronry on the Androscoggin above Errol, and brought back several sets of eggs, all slightly incubated.

1874.
Aug. 27. At least thirty in Black Island Cove. They rose nearly together and after wheeling about a while alighted on the tops of some tall dead pines which presented a xurious appearance covered with the great birds.

1880.

May 22. Two on Cambridge River. One shot as it came suddenly upon us following the course of the stream was in a peculiar immature plumage.

Sept. 3. Shortly after sunset they began to come from up the Cambridge, and circling majestically, high in air, swept down to feed on the muddy shallows bordering the pond in the meadow, each barking harshly as it descended.

" 8. Large numbers feeding on the mud-flats in the Swett Cove.

" 17. Numbers along the Cambridge River between the dam and 3 Meadows.

1882.
Oct. 1-22. One seen October 9.

Ardea herodias.

1870.
Sept.2-10. Very abundant on all the ponds and streams; as elsewhere it is exceedingly shy here (Forks of the Kennebec, Maine).

1871.
Sept. 9. About twenty standing erect together on Ipswich Beach. Mr.Maynard tells me that he has never seen them there before.

Ardea egretta.

1875.
Apr. 20. One was shot at Plymouth to-day.

Ardea virescens.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

May 5. Three in the Pine Swamp.

June 23. Two nests in th e Pine Swamp, each containing young about a week old. The female of one nest walked slowly off among the twigs and took flight in silence, but the parent of the other was more courageous, alighting in a small tree almost directly above my head, walking gradefully through the branches, and uttering a cry sounding like keow repeated four or five times in succession and closely resembling the song of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Her mate was shyer, keeping beyond gun range and reiterating a hoarse hough which sounded like the hoot of the Barred Owl. The young when taken from the nest walked with all the grace and elegance of their parents; their skin was of a light green color scantily covered with white down.

" " Found two nests both of which contained young about a week old; the nests were built in birch trees, at the height of about fifteen feet, and were flimsy affairs loosely constructed of sticks (Pine Swamp).

July 11. They pass over out garden every evening on their way to the salt marshes, flying swiftly, with the neck stretched out stiffly like a Duck's; Unlike the Night Herons they are never seen in flocks.

Oct. 16. One, the last.

1871.

May 2. One.

" 6. Five in full breeding plumage.

1869.

May 28. Nest with five eggs slightly incubated. Placed in a swinging birch at the height of about two feet; female remained on the nest till I was nearly under the tree.

1870.

May 24. Four fresh eggs in an old nest repaired. This nest has now been occupied by the ame pair three seasons in spite of my having robbed this and a second nest of theirs last spring. Both birds showed much solicitude for their eggs alighting near and keeping up their croaking cries.

1875.

May 8. Started one in a pond-hole surrounded by button bushes (Concord).

1879.

Apr. 26. One, the first.

Ardea virescens.

1874.

Maine (Lake Umabgog).

Aug. 28. A young bird in fall plumage was killed on the shore of the Lake to-day at the Sargent Farm and brought to me in the evening.

Ardea virescens.

1875.
July 9. One fishing on the shore of a narrow channel in the Bay. He crawled rather than walked along the muddy shore with neck drawn in, bearing a striking resemblance to a huge mud turtle. At frequent intervals he would dart out his bill almost horizontally and nearly every thrust seemed to be successful (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

Nycteardea grisea nivea.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Apr. 4. One in the Pine Swmp.

" 5. Saw a flock of about fifteen, all in full plumage.

" 8. A large flock; six inches of snow on the ground.

" 9. Saw a number of them .

Sept.26. Heard one but the majority have left here. They pass the day resting in the thick foliage of the maples, standing most of the time on one leg with the other drawn up under their feathers. Their sight is very nearly as quick as their hearing, and it is useless to try to approach one without good cover. I have noticed that thay seem to see more plainly in the day than in the dark, as in the day time they will very rarely pass over you, but in the evening they will frequently come within half a giunshot, although you may be in open sight. They may be easily called by imitating their characteristic cry.

Nov. 3. Saw the last of the season this evening.

1869.

Apr. 15. One passing over in the dusk of the evening.

" 17. Saw about a ~~dozen~~ dozen during the day.

1870.

Apr. 9. One passing overhead shortly after sunset.

" 21. Saw a flock of about thirty and took one.

1871.

Sept.29. Still abundant.

Nov. 17. A single bird at Fresh Pond, the last.

Apr. 12. Saw a single bird. Upon being started from a grove of pines, it alighted in an oak tree in an open field.

1870.

Sept & Oct. Very rare; left early on account of the severe drought.

1874.

July 21. One on the Assabet River, Concord.

Oct. 31. Passing Professor Lowell's place on the south side I saw four Night Herons fly from the pines bordering the road. Several times previously this autumn I have heard them among these pines.

Nycteardea grisea nivea.

1875.

Middlecex County, Mass.

Apr. 12. Started five in the Pine Swamp. Their devotion to this favorite haunt is remarkable.

May 27. A pair in the Fresh Pond swamps.

June 1. About twenty-five in the maple woods bordering the brook beyond "Block Island"; shot one which was in warn immature plumage. Searched every thicket and piece of woods throughout these marshes without finding a single nest. about half of the birds seen were immature, evidently they were not breeding here.

Aug. 31. Shot an adult in the Maple Swamp; it was moulting, most of the wing-feathers being fresh ones. It had only one plume and the steel-blue of the back and crown was replaced by the dark ~~plumbeous~~ lustreless plumbeous.

Dec. 2. Shot one in brown plumage. It was sitting on the ground on the sunny side of an alder thicket bordering Alewife Brook. One of its wings had been broken and had healed in such a way that it could not be used in flight. The bird was in good condition and had evidently established itself by the open brook kept free from ice by the warm sewerage matter now discharged into it. The thermometer has fallen to zero during the past two nights and the marshes are frozen solid.

1876

Feb. 15. In the "Boston Daily Advertiser" for February 12 James Russel Lowell writes: "I have seen them every evening up to the 12th of February. The largest number I have counted is eight, though there are not doubt more". They are also reported by J.N.Clark as wintering at Saybrook, Connecticut in numbers, and a flock was seen at West Newton, December 31, 1875 by Mr.Warren.

" 17. Visited Prof.Lowell's place this evening to see the Night Herons. Three flew from the pines shortly after sunset, each uttering its loud quak as it left its roost, and all heading towards the Charles River marshes. The evening was cold with blustering north-west wind.

Apr. 5. Started one from an apple tree behind Mt.Auburn. The tree was so loaded with damp snow that it afforded nearly as dense a shelter as when covered with summer foliage.

Aug. 4. I hear them frequently at ~~dusk~~ night now, calling to one another as they circle over the Charles River marshes. On several occasions lately I have seen them leave Prof. Lowell's pines at dusk; a few also roost still in what is left of the old Pine Swamp.

Dec. 15. One seen in the cedars, Watertown, by Frazar.

Wyetsardes Prisen nivs.

[illegible] County, 1888.

Apr. 18. Started five in the Pine Swamp. Their devotion to their favorite haunt is proverbial.

May 27. A pair in the fresh pond swamps.

June 1. About twenty-five in the maple woods bordering the brook beyond "Block Island"; about one which was in warm immature plumage. Searched every thicket and piece of woods thro'out those marshes without finding a single nest. About half of the birds seen were immature, evidently they were not breeding here.

Aug. 31. Shot an adult in the Maple Swamp; it was moulting, most of the wing-feathers being fresh ones. It had only one plume and the steel-blue of the back and crown was replaced by the dark plumbeous. Instrolless plumbeous.

Dec. 2. Shot one in brown plumage. It was sitting on the ground on the sunny side of an old or thicket bordering Alewife Brook. One of its wings had been broken and had healed in such a way that it could no be used in flight. The bird was in good condition and had evidently sustained itself by the open brook kept free from ice by the warm sewerage water now discharged into it. The thermometer has fallen to zero during the past two nights and the marshes are frozen solid.

Feb. 22. In the "Boston Daily Advertiser" for February 22 James Russel Lowell writes: "I have seen them every evening up to the 12th of February. The largest number I have counted is eight, though there can not doubt more". They are also reported by J. Clark as wintering at Stoneybrook, Connecticut in numbers, and a flock was seen at West Newton, December 31, 1875 by Mr. Warren.

Feb. 17. Visited Prof. Lowell's place this evening to see the Giant Herons. Three flew from the pines shortly after sunset, each uttering its loud quank as it left its roost, and all heading towards the Charles River marshes. The evening was cold with blustering north-west wind.

Jan. 4. Started one from an apple tree behind Mt. Auburn. The tree was so loaded with deep snow that it afforded nearly as dense a shelter as when covered with summer foliage.

Aug. 4. I hear them frequently at dusk now, calling to one another as they circle over the Charles River marshes. On several occasions lately I have seen them leave Prof. Lowell's pines at dusk; a few also roost still in what is left of the old Pine Swamp.

[illegible] One seen in the cedars, Watertown, by Frazar.

Nycteardea grisea nivea.

1879.

Middlesex County, Mass.

May 12. Started four in yellow pines near Prospect Street, Belmont. Within the last few years they have almost deserted their haunts in the Fresh Pond swamps and have sought new asylums in secluded pine woods on upland, often far distant from any water. The first resort of this charcter noted was Prof.Lowell's place where they established a Herony several years since. In the sutumn of 1876 they were found among the cedars in Watertown by Frazar; in the same place in the winter of 1879 by Spelman; and in April 1879 in the Pine woods on Waverly Hill, also by Spelman. Their wintering here has become an established habit and they may now be found in small numbers at any time of the year. Those that pass the summer are, however, barren birds, and no case of their nesting in this vicinity has come to my knowledge since 1864. Dr.Brewer tells me that ~~when~~ in 1834, 1835 he visited a herony in the Fresh Pond swamps and found many nests containing eggsthough the birds were then much persecuted and their numbers greatly reduced. These Herons are now most numerous here in autumn when there is an evident migration from the north.

Their breeding place at that time was just to the South side of the main road between Cambridge & Arlington near the banks of Alewife Brook and not far from where the Cambridge almshouse now stands

Nycteardes grisea nivaea.

1873.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Aug. 2. On the Magalloway a mile or two below the landing the steamer started a flock of about a dozen which were roosting in the spruces on the bank.

" 12. Shot a young bird which started from the muddy shore of Cambridge River about two miles above the dam.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.
Oct. 17. On one being shot at flew a short distance and alighted up to its breast in water. Fired again and wounded it it ruffled its feathers and struck fiercely with its sword-like bill.

1868.

May 14 One (Rock Meadow).

" 16. One singing on Rock Meadow. It wou ld extend its neck and drawing in its head suddenly, throw it out again with a jerk, at the same time uttering its peculiar pump, kle-unk. This would be repeated several times, after which the bird would stand erect in the grass for several minutes before singing again. When I approached it crouched in the long grass.

Oct. 7. One, the last.

1869.

Apr. 16. Heard a male in Waltham.

May 29. Shot a male on the Fresh Pond marshes.

Oct. 5. Shot one (Concord).

1870.
Nov. 3. One, the last. I shot at it and it fell wing-broken. When approached it defended itself with the utmost fiereeness, ruffling its feathers, opening wide its mouth, and uttering cries, or rather roars, that could have been heard at least half a mile. On being put down on the edge of a pond it stalked along the shore a little way, then wading into the water struck out boldly bobbing like a Duck over the waves. It went out several hundred yards but finally returned.

1871.

Apr. 13. One on Rock Meadow, Belmont.

" 22. Three (Concord).

Oct. 4. The last (Concord River).

1874.

Oct. 8. Shot one which my ~~pointer~~ setter pointed steadily

Nov. 26. One shot in Belmont.

1875.
May 22. One on Rock Meadow, Belmont.

Botaurus lentginosus.

1876.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Sept.11. Saw one shot in Bird's Pond.

Oct. 12. One (Concord).

" 13. One in Concord sitting within a few yards of the road in an open field; as usual it held its bill pointing nearly vertically upward.

1879.

Apr. 23. One (Belmont).

May 1. In the Willows saw one sitting in a bush about a foot over the water, erect, statuesque bill pointing straight upward. It remained immovable until it realised that it was seen, then took flight. Another, perhaps its mate, was singing on the meadow.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

Maine (Lake Urbagon).

1871.
June 3. On the largest of the floating islands near the house we found three nests to-day, containing respectively six, five, and three eggs, all quite fresh. The nests were rude structures of sticks placed on the quaking, boggy ground in a matted bed of cassandra bushes and all within a few rods of one another. The females sat closely rising only when nearly trodden on. We found only one male on the island. He boomed at all times of the day and even after the nests were robbed did not desert the place.

These floating islands of which there several in the Lake are singular and interesting formations, composed of interlaced roots and tussocks more or less covered with cassandra bushes, alders, and Cornus stolonifera. The one where the bittern nests were found has two larch trees fifteen or twenty feet high. They are literally vegetable rafts, rising and falling with the water of the lake. This Bittern island is said to have come from a point a mile or more distant, breaking loose from its original moorings and drifting to the spot where it now stands. Its surface is quaking and more or less treacherous, yielding several inches at each foot-step and occasionally breaking through.

1872.
June -- A nest with five perfectly fresh eggs on the floating island.

1873.
Sept. 1. One shot August 31 and another to-day.

1876.

May 26. A male uttering his singular notes on the floating island near the house and another answering him from a smaller island near Stone's landing. We paddled to within a few yards of the first but could not see him as he was concealed among the grass and bushes. His cry was as follows: er-lump, poomp-er loomb the last three sylables repeated five times in succession. The first, making a sort of prelude to the whole performance. Occasionally a seventh utterence was added as if he was not altogether satisfied with what he had accomplished. The first sylable has a watery swallowing sound; the second is exactly like a distant axe stroke on resonant wood; while the last sounds like the echo of the stroke.

June 3. On the floating island in front of the Stone farm, I started a female bittern from her nest. It was small, flat, and composed entirely of dead twigs placed on the dry ground among the thickest bushes. The eggs were five in number, two with embryos forming, and the remainder fresh. The bird croaked as she rose, flew direstly out of sight, and did not return.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

1876.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

(June 5) Landing on the floating island near the Stone place to search for nests I was parting the matted Cassandra bushes with my paddle when I felt a tap on its blade. Investigating further I was surprised to find a Bittern sitting on her nest within a yard of me. She was so puffed up that the nest was entirely concealed, and indeed nothing of her shape was visible, except a mass of brown plumage with the small head and bill projecting from between her shoulders not a particle of her neck being exposed. After looking at her for some time I again poked her with the paddle when she struck at it forcibly, at the same time erecting the feathers of the crown. I actually tried for several minutes to push her off the nest using much force and bending the slender paddle almost to the point of breaking it. Finally setting the blade behind her head I pushed it forward holding it on the ground so firmly that she began to gasp for breath. At length my paddle slipped off when she at once took wing in silence and flew to the opposite shore. There were only two eggs in the nest and I left them in hopes that she would lay more, but returning a few days later I found them cold and wet and the nest evidently deserted. There was not a trace of fear in her expression but instead fierce and sullen determination. This nest had some dry grass arranged as a lining. Like the one found June 3 it was placed on the highest and dryest part of the island; but unlike it, it was so overarched by the thickly growing Cassandra bushes that this bird in entering and leaving it must have had to walk several steps in a crouching posotion beneath the interlaced twigs.

1881.
May 23. One singing in Beaumont's Pond.

1882.
Oct.8-22 One shot October 14. Its stomach contained a water beetle.

Botaurus lentiginosus.

1870.

June 27. Heard the stake-driving note of a Bittern across the widest part of the Bay at Hiannis, a distance of about a mile and a half.

Sept.2-10. Common about all the ponds and streams near the Forks of the Kennebec, Maine. Several that we shot at at long range , did not move. We found them very good eating.

1874.

July 2. Saw a pair (Nantucket).

1875.

June 18. Saw one on the road between Ringe and Grafton,N.H.

1881.

Nov. 5. Started one from beach grass on Sandhills (Philips Beach,Mass.).

Ardetta exilis.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.

Aug. 11. Shot an adult male in the Fresh Pond marshes near Block Island. It flew like a Green Heron with the neck extended, the legs stretched out behind, and alighting in the top of some bulrushes clung to their tall stems. Its varied colors made it very conspicuous while flying.

1875.

May 27. While wading nearly up to my waiste in water in the Fresh Pond swamps I started a Least Bittern from a cluster of water plants. Topping the surrounding alders it disappeared; following it I came upon it perched upon a low bush over the water; with a feeble flutter it tried to fly, but apparently finding the twigs too thick resumed its perch balancing itself on a slender branch with seeming difficulty. I shot it and found it to be a female which was evidently laying. A bream distended its slender neet most noticeably; this fish was q uite fresh and evidently just swallowed. I examined it carefully but failed to find the slightest scratch, or other mark of the Bittern's bill. Hence I infer this species picks up its prey instead of piercing it.

June 10. Started an adult male from the top of a water willow; after flying a few rods he alighted in atall bush, As I cautiously approached he peeped at me curiously with outstretched neck and deliberately walked out along the branch precisely in the manner of the Green Heron. Upon shooting him I found his stomach empty. He was probably the mate of the female shot May 27.

July 13. Shot a male in the Brickyard Swamp. It alighted in a bush where it sat peering at me with outstretched neck withdrawing its head behind the leaves wherever I made a sudden movement. It was in perfect plumage. The stomach was crammed with small silverly minnows about two inches in length. Shortly afterwards I saw another male flying high over the swamp with legs drawn up behind, proceeding on the leisurely manner characteristic of most Herons. Still a third rose some fifty yards off uttering a loud ca-ca-ca-ca as it started and continuing this cry for sometime in the top of a thick alder where it alighted. The actions of this bird convinced me that she had either eggs or young in the vicinity. She was exceedingly shy, taking short flights but always keepint put of range, and uttering her note at frequent intervals. She flew quite strongly, although the flight of this species seems to be usually feeble and flickering.

July 28. Started three from low bushes on the edge of pondholes, in the Brickyard Swamp, and shot two of them, one an adult male, the other a young bird just on wing and evidently one of the brood I heard calling here a week or two ago. This latter specimen fell wounded into the water, when it quickly paddled ashore and attempted to

[illegible] Willow.

[illegible] Green Heron.

[illegible]

[illegible] 17. Shot an adult male in the Green Pond marshes near Rock Island. It flew like a green heron with the neck extended, the legs stretched out behind, and alighting in the top of some bulrushes clung to their tall stems. Its varied colors made it very conspicuous while flying.

1916.

May 27. While wading nearly up to my waists in water in the Green Pond swamps I started a Least Bittern from a clumper of water plants. Topping the surrounding alders it disappeared; following it I came upon it perched upon a low bush over the water; with a feeble flutter it tried to fly, but apparently finding the twigs too thick resumed its perch balancing itself on a slender branch with seeming difficulty. I shot it and found it to be a [illegible] its slender feet most noticeably; this fish was quite fresh and evidently just swallowed. I examined it carefully but failed to find the slightest scratch or other mark of the bittern's bill. Hence I infer this species [illegible] its prey instead of piercing it.

June 10. Started an adult male from the top of a water willow; after flying a few rods he alighted in small bush. As I cautiously approached he peeped at me curiously with outstretched neck and deliberately walked out along the branch precisely in the manner of the Green Heron. Upon shooting him I found his stomach empty. He was probably the mate of the female shot May 27.

July 16. Shot a male in the Brickyard Swamp. It alighted in a bush where it sat peering at me with outstretched neck withdrawing its head behind the leaves wherever I made a sudden movement. It was in perfect plumage. The stomach was crammed with a small silvery minnow about two inches in length. Shortly afterwards I saw another male flying high over the swamp with legs drawn up behind, proceeding on the leisurely manner characteristic of most Herons. Still a third rose some fifty yards off uttering a loud qa-qa-qa-qa as it started and continuing this cry for sometime in the top of a tall alder where it alighted. The actions of this bird convinced me that she had either eggs or young in the vicinity. She was exceedingly shy, taking short flights but always keeping out of range, and uttering her note at frequent intervals. She flew quite strongly, although the flight of this species seems to be usually feeble and flickering.

July 28. Started three from low bushes on the edge of pondholes, in the Brickyard Swamp, and shot two of them, one an adult male, the other a young bird just on wing and evidently one of the brood I heard calling here a week or two ago. This latter specimen fell wounded into the water, when it quickly paddled ashore and attempted to

Ardetta exilis.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass

(July 28) hide among the tussocks. When I picked it up, it struck at me repeatedly in the manner of the Common Bittern, and with a motion as quick as lightening. One thrust hit my hand, the bird driving his bill through the skin and draing blood. The stomachs of both the adult and young were crammed with Coleoptera especially of large species of Water beetle.

Aug. 4. Shot an adult female in rather worn plumage in the Brickyard Swamp this morning. Her stomach contained a number of large bream.

" 9. Shot an adult male in the Brickyard Swamp.

" 24. Have seen none for a long time.

1876.

May 12. In the Belmont Willows one started from the road in front of my horse and alighted in a bush over the water. I approached within ten paces and shot it with a collecting pistol. It fell broken-winged into the water and swimming across the ditch landed on the opposite shore where it awaited my approach without trying to conceal itself in the long grass. When I held out my hand it struck it with wonderful quickness and directness of aim, driving the points of its sharp bill through the skin. The blow, however, was comparatively feebl . It also ruffled up its feathers like a wounded Botaurus and uttered an angry squeaking noise. When perched in the bushes it sat with its head drawn in and frequently jerked up its tail. Its stomach was fairly crammed with white cotton wool, among which were three small parasitical worms, many larger worms were twined around the intestines.

Strepsilas interpres.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Sept. 2. Saw one which was shot to-day near the Outlet by Mr.King.

" 8. Shot a young female on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge where it was feeding alone but within a hundred yards of some Aegialitis semipalmata.

Strepsilas interpres.

1871.

Sept. 3. Found in abundance by H.W.Henshaw.

" 9. A large flock on Ipswich Beach.

1875

Aug. 17. One on Long Island, Boston Harbor. Its cry is a short rattle of four or five notes run together.

Sept.21. One in company with Semipalmated Plover feeding among drift weed on Coatue Point. As I approached it skulked off among the grass, crouching and lowering its head. The gunners here call this bird the "craddock", probably from its hoarse rattling note. (Nantucket).

" 27. One at S ith's Point feeding in a large flock of Sandling (Nantucket).

" 29. A flock of nine flying along shore just over the surface surf. Their flight is swift, their movements in the air exceedingly graceful. They utter a rolling whistle not unlike that of Numenius hudsonicus, but rather higher pitched (Nantucket).

1876.

May 16. Numbers feeding in company with Sandling on the extreme point of Monomoy Island (Chatham, Mass.)!

" 17. Five or six Turnstones in nearly every flock of Sandling along the shores of Monomoy Island; they were in superb breeding plumage (Chatham,Mass.).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. 19. Shot a adult male from a large flock that came into my decoy (Yellow-legged stool) on the Eel Pond marsh. Their flight is rapid and direct, their varied colors very conspicuous when they are flying. They are common here on pebbly beaches. Note a rolling whistle.

1872.
July 26 A single specimen seen. Not afterwards mentioned in my notes on this season. (This ommission was doubtless due to carelessness for I distinctly remember the bird as occurring frequently on the Eel Pond every season that I shot at Rye Beach, and regularly, in August, on the pebbly portions of the beach.).

Squatorola helvetica.

1870.

Saw large flocks at Long Island, Boston Harbor; their flight is continued unusually late this year. Took one at Rye Beach August 20. They fed both on the sea beach, and on the upland pastures near the coast.

1871.

May 24 The markets for the last few weeks have been filled with these birds; I am told by the marketmen that C. virginianus never occurs in spring.

1875.

Aug. 17. Three or four on Long Island, Boston Harbor.

Sept.24. Shot one on the Coatue Point. My boatman called him within range very readily. The gunners here call this species the Beetlehead. (Nantucket).

" " A flock of five on the shore of the harbor were exceedingly shy, but by stalking them cnefully we killed three. Their characteristic positions are identical with those of the smaller Plover, but they run rather differently and much faster. Their note is a long-drawn whistle, very mellow and plaintive (Nantucket).

" 27. One on the mud-flats at Smith's Point)Nantucket).

" 28. Landing at our gunning house on Coatue Point just after dark we haerd a long drawn whistle of one of these birds flying over the water. Fisher answered him when he passed close to us several times, unseen, however, in the darkness. More than once a low weird, guttural, amolst choking cry immediately succeeded the whistle. The effect of the whole was very interesting (Nantucket).

" 30. We killed three yesterday and three to-day on Coatue Point, Nantucket.

1876.

May 6. On Monomoy Island, at 10. P.M. I heard the long-drawn plaintive whistle of one of these Plover coming through the darkness and mist from the flats to the westward. This species is nearly as nocturnal as a Snipe or a Wodcock (Chatham, Mass.).

" " Three at Chatham, Mass. The gunners say they arrived yesterday.

" 7. Ten alighted on a small island. I got almost within shot before they flew; they presented a beautiful appearance in their perfect summer plumage. (Chatham, Mass.).

Squatorola helvetica.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1870.

Aug.19-31. Seen nearly every day on the beach, more rarely on the Eel Pond marsh. Exceedingly shy but easily called by whistling.

1871.

July 31. One seen.

Aug. 2. " "

" 9. " "

" 25. Three or four passed through the Eel Pond marsh.

1872.

Aug. 14. Saw a single bird. Another was noted threeor four days earlier but I neglected to record the date.

Charadrius virginicus.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1873.
Sept. 1. Saw one near the mouth of Cambridge River.

1880.

Sept. 2. One passing high overhead whistling plaintively. I called it when it descended with half-closed wings and dashed swiftly passed the boat.

" 7. One wandering over the mud-flats and marshes at the mouth of the Cambridge uttering its plaintive rolling whistle, and finally passing out over the woods without alighting.

" 14. Four, all adults, on the bar at the mouth of the River. They ran about exactly like the smaller species but their movements were much more rapid. They had the same Robin-like manner of making short runs, stooping for a moment to pick up a morsel of food, then standing erect and statuesque for a moment before starting on the next run. When they faced us the black patches beneath were very conspicuous. I killed all four of them.

" 15. Eleven, all adults, feeding on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge. They were very tame. I killed three of them.

0 1882.
Oct. 8-22 I distinctly heard one on October 17.

1880.
S[illegible] .1[illegible]. Fo[illegible], all ad[illegible]lts, fe[illegible]ng on a ba[illegible] [illegible] O[illegible] lot. Th[illegible] v[illegible] [illegible].

Charadrius virginicus.

1871.

Sept. 3. Hundreds observed by H.W.Henshaw.

" 7. A flock seen by R.Deane.

" 9. Two (Ipswich).

1875.

Sept. 21 One seen. The young of this species is known here as the "Pale-belly" (Nantucket).

1875.

Sept. 24. Saw a single bird. The gunners say that the flight passed early in September (Nantucket).

" 25. A flock of about fifty on the sandy shore of Hummock Pond. At the report of my gun they rose and were making off when Fisher began to whistle to them. They immediately turned and came back, passing within long range, when we killed five; one fine adult, four young. All are exceedingly fat. They were afterwards joined by a larger flock when all disappeared over the sandhills. A third flock of about twenty sitting on a sand-spit flew long before I could get within range. These Plover fly very swiftly and in a compact body, at a distance somewhat resembling Wild Pigeons. The first flock that I saw passed us in silence. I heard some of the others utter a single low mellow whistle, different from that of S.helvetica. We found their tracts everywhere on the sandy shore of the pond. (Nantucket).

" 27: One on the mud-flats at Smith's Pond, very shy (Nantucket).

" 28. At sunset saw several large flocks flying close over the water at the Harbor at Nantucket.

" 29. One passing over Coatue Point at an immense height answered my call with a single short whistle and immediately descended when I shot it (Nantucket).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.

Aug. — September Saw two August 22. By September 1 they became numerous, but not abundant. They often came into the Eel Pond marsh and I saw one shot there as it was running over the mud in company with Totanus flavipes.

1871.

Aug. 28. A single bird, the first seen this year, alighted on the marsh and was shot.

1872. Not mentioned in my notes of this season and, if I remember rightly, not seen at all.

Aegialitis vociferus.

1873.
Nov. 22. Arthur Smith tells me that he shot one in Brookline in the ~~year~~ spring of 1873.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. 31. Saw one flying about the Eel Pond. With its pointed wings and long tail it resembled a Wild Pigeon. Its note was a shrill dee-dee-dee-dee .

1871.
Aug. 4. Saw two flying in a flock of Totanus flavipes.

1872. Not noted this season a nd I believe not met with.

Aegialitis semipalmata.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1869.
Sept. 2. A large flock on the shores of Shermon's Pond (Waltham).

1871.
May 25. Several on Charles River.

1875.

Aug. 4. About a dozen in an immense flock of Ereunetes on the mud-flats in Cambridge Nook, Fresh Pond.

Sept. 6. Shot on the mud-flats in Fresh Pond.

Aegialitis semipalmata.

Maine Lake (Sebago).

1873.
July 19. Five on the [illegible] beach.

1874.
[illegible]. 8. A large flock passed over the flooded meadows and failing to find a resting place passed out to the south over Upton Hill.

1880.

Sept. 4. Two on a mud bar at the mouth of the Cambridge.

" 5. Five feeding on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge; their motions are very graceful, and resemble those of the Robin.

" A number feeding in company with "Peeps", on a mud flat in Sargent's Cove.

" 14. Large numbers on the bar at the mouth of the River.

" 15. Large numbers in company with "Peeps" feeding on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge River.

" 18. A flock on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge River, in company with Ereunetes.

Aegialitis semipalmata.

1870.
Sept.24. Four on Long Island, Boston Harbor, Mass.

1874.
July 1. Saw two and shot one, a male which evidently would not have bred this year (Nantucket).

1875.

Aug. 17. Numbers on Long Island, Boston Harbor.

" 26. Large numbers feeding on grasshoppers on the close-cropped turf of the hilly sheep pastures on Long Island, Boston Harbor, Mass. (See Obs.Under Ereunetes).

Sept.21. Abundant (Nantucket).

1876.

May 7. Several small flocks (Chatham, Mass.).

" 15. Very numerous (Chatham, Mass.).

" 16. Large flocks at sunset flying in to roost on the dry gravelly flat behind the sandhills. (Chatham,Mass.).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. From August 14 to September 1 they were abundant associating with Least Sandpipers and Sandling and frequenting the beach and marshes about equally. Their motions recall those of Turdus migratorius They advance by short runs, pausing a moment in an erect position before starting again, occasionally bending quickly forward to pick up something.

1871.

July 28. A moderate flight.

Aug. 7. A heavy flight mingled with Peeps.

" 8. Passing in immense numbers.

" 25. There has been a remarkable flight for the past three days, many hundreds going overhead or through the marsh daily.

1872.
July 20. A steady flight all day, flock of eight or ten invariably accompanied by several times as many "Peeps", and occasionally by one or two Aegialites meloda. (Not afterwards mentioned in the somewhat fragmentary notes on this season).

Aegialitis meloda.

1870.

July 1. Although the birds were abundant, we found but one nest; this was merely a slight depression in the bare sand near the shore, and contained four eggs well advanced (Muskegat).

" " Common, breeding, at Muskegat Island, Mass.

" 11. Common, breeding on the sandhills (Ipswich, Mass.).

1874.

June 18. Shot a pair on a sand beach (Marston's Mills, Mass.)

July 7. Found a young bird on Muskegat not more than three days old. The fishermen call this species the "Peblo", evidently from its note.

Sept. 22. Six or eight at Smith's Point. Shot two, both young birds in fall plumage (Nantucket).

" 25. A few at Smith's Point (Nantucket).

1866.
May 6. About fifty (Chatham, Mass.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1866.
Aug. 16. Shot an adult bird which was accompanied by several young only a few days old.

1868.
Aug. 19. Two on the beach in company with Aeg. semipalmatus and Tringa minutilla. Their habits are similar to those of the former species from which, alive, they can be only distinguished by their light color.

1872.
July 26. During a heavy flight of Waders to-day several of this species was noted in nearly every passing flock of Aeg. semipalmata that came through the marsh.

Philohela minor.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Mar. 28. Saw one in a piece of low woods where the ground was bare of snow in spots.

Apr. 11. Flushed and shot four (two males, two females) on a low, swampy covert. One of them rose out of range and alighted in an open field on the surface of the snow. Dimensions of a male which was, if anything, larger than either of the two females: Length, from tip of bill to end of tail, eleven and one-fourth inches. From tip of bill to end of middle claw, twelve and one-half inches. Extent, 18.

May 25. Found a female with three young which were apparently about a week old. She lay on the ground perfectly motionless, until I got my hand within a few inches of her, then rose with hanging legs, like a Rail, and after flying a short distance, tumbled about as if wounded.

July 11. Shot three, two old birds and one young, well-grown and active on the wing. The old birds weighed respectively seven, and eight and one-half ounces. They rose at the distance of about ten paces and rarely flew more than twenty yards at a time, proceeding for the most part in a direct line but where the covert was thick, dodging about the tops of the bushes.

" 20. Watched one to-day for sometime; the moment that he saw me he erected his tail and ran with great swiftness for twenty yards or more and then squatted.

" 25. They have not changed their grounds as yet.

Sept.11. Shot one to-day. It rose from the summit of a long, dry ridge where the ground was shaded by tall pines

Sept.29. Found one in a rather dry maple swamp.

Oct. 8. Found several, evidently flight birds, on a hillside among birches.

Nov. 7. One on a hillside among birch trees and evergreens.

" 14. One was shot and several more seen, the last of the season. The flight birds "coming on" just before the fall of the leaf were very abundant, and remained several weeks. But few birds were raised here this year owing to the late spring snows.

1869.

Apr. 2. Shot a male to-day, the first of the season.

June 6. Young about half-grown but unable to fly; female flew off at the first alarm but showing little concern for her helpless progeny.

Oct.

Philohela minor.

1869.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Oct.8) Many here to-day in low lying birches. As we have had several touches of frosty weather lately it is probable that the flight has commenced.

" " 18. Shot one, flushing it on a hill-top among scanty birches.

" 25. Started seven to-day and took five of them. Although we beat the hillsides carefully we found all our birds in low lying ~~bushes~~ birch coverts and ~~runs~~ wet runs. They were all undoubtedly flight birds. They lay very close, permitting an approach to within a few feet. The majority whistled less loudly than summer birds.

Nov. 8. Started six and took five of them. Three we found on hillsides in dry birch covers, two in wet runs, the sixth in a swmpy maple grove.

" 9. Took three, one on a hillside, one in the "runs", and the third among low lying birches.

" 13. Started two on a birch hillside.

" 15. Started two, the last of the season, on a birch hillside. One of them rose only a few feet in front of the dog and after trying vainly to get through the thick branches, dropped backwards to the ground, and starting again, whistled off with wonderful quickness.

1870.

Mar. 26. One was seen to-day I think at West Newton.

Apr. 7. Saw one taken to-day; upon dissection it proved to be a female which contained eggs so fully developed that they would probably have been deposited in a day or two.

" 7. Took a female that was on the point of depositing her first egg.

Sept.12. Started several in a dense, moist covert of swamp maples.

Oct. 25. Started thirteen flight birds, mostly among birches (Concord).

Nov. 13. Two were seen.

1871.

Mar. 25. One seen in Belmont (C.Carter); they have undoubtedly been here for sometime.

Philohela minor.

1871

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Mar.22) Saw one that undoubtedly had young as it acted very strangely, making a querulous sound and flying only a few yards at a time.

June 17 Started a brood of four young birds on a high hill covered with tall poplars; there was a heavy rain last night which may account for this; though apparently of full size these birds flew feebly.

Sept.20-21. The weather was sharp for September and started quite a flight of these birds. They took to the alder swamps and runs though a few were found in lowly-lying birches. As many as thirteen were started in a day at Concord; all were large old birds just recovering from the moult; owing to the drought they have been scarce through the summer.

Oct.19. & & 20. The heaviest flight of birds passed through the state. The weather was very cold, the thermometer falling to 28°.

Nov. 3. Started five among birches (Concord).

" 10. A very small male , in Waltham on birch hillside; sportsmen say that the tail end of the flight is always composed of small birds. Saw so many signs that I am convinced that there must have been quite a flight during the last few days.

Dec. 13. Shot the last, a very small male bird which we started in a sheltered run shortly after day break; it had evidently just dropped in from the north as there was only one patch of white-wash onthe ground where it had been sitting and on dissection we found the stomach almost entirely empty; it was, however, in good flesh though not fat, and whistled loudly as it rose. The country has been frozen hard for weeks and the mercury for days in succession has fallen to zero.

1872.

Apr. 12. A Woodcock was started from North Market St. near Quincy Market, Boston, early this morning, by a trustworthy and experienced sportsman, one of the members of the Tremont Club.

" 30. Heard one sing at Carlisle; it rose from a springy hollow in a pasture and flying off close to the ground for about twenty yards, began to ascend ina broad spiral its wings whistling loudly. Higher and higher it rose drifting off with the wind, its wings still whistling steadily and when perhaps a hundred yards above the earhh and nearly lost to sight in the uncertain light it poised a moment, then began to descend. The whistling

Philohela minor.

1872.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Apr. 30) hitherto uninterrupted now became broken or divided into syllables like chipperchipperchipper-chipperchipperchipper, rapidly in reasing in quickness and volume, and probably produced by the wing-beats, the pauses representing intervals of sailing (during this stage of the performance the bird was invisible). At length with a whit-wit, it began a liquid, estactic warble much like that of a water-whistle and accelerated in volume and sweetness as it approached the ground, till at length it ceased abruptly when the bird pitched to the earth. After hearing him sing several times we rushed to the spot whence he rose while he was in the air, and concealed ourselves in a large ground juniper just as the last notes of his song died away overhead, when the bird dropped within five yards of us the rustling of his feathers being distinctly audible as he closed his wings. He immediately began uttering a loud harsh pa-a-ap, which sounded at a distance like the cry of a Nighthawk, but near at hand had a strange vibrating twang. This was repeated at intervals of about five second each and usually about thrity times before the bird rose into the air again. It was invariably preceded by a note sounding like the the fall of a heavy drop of water in a cistern, a low pt-ul, pt-ul, pt-ul repeated twice or thrice the last utterence being given in the same breath with the pa-a-ap. Sometimes the latter was suddenly choked in the middle of its utterence as if by the bird swallowing something. After the light had faded altogether from the west the song ceased, but the other notes were kept up without intermission.

1874.

June 3. In the Warren Run, Waltham, I started a large Woodcock directly under-foot. She flew about ten paces and alighting, began to beat the ground with her wings, uttering a whining noise like that of a young puppy. Searching carefully among the leaves I found a young bird about the size of a newly hatched chicken squatting close to the ground. It allow ed me to seize it before moving but when caught began a plaintive peeping which immediately started three others, who scuttled off at a great pace their down-clad wings held extended like so many ostriches, all peeping loudly. The old bird now came up, running prettily over the leaves, showing much anxiety but never approaching nearer than about two rods. Releasing my little captive he started off after his brothers and I left them.

" 20. Started a pair in the Warren Run, Waltham. The female tumbled about on the ground beating her wongs frantically. They must have had a brood of young but I was unable to find the latter.

Philohela minor.

1874.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(June 23) One standing in the middle of the road in the Willows.

Sept.21. Melvin has found them numerous at Concord through the summer, rarely failing to start from ten to twelve in a day. He saw the last one in a Corn-field September 6. Since then they have been exclusively on fall ground chiefly birch hillsides. As Woodcock have been scarce everywhere else he is puzzled to know where these came from for they ceratainly were not there in July.

" 23. Started one at Concord.

" 24. Started eleven at Concord.

Oct. 5. Melvin started eight at Concord to-day and the same number yesterday.

" 15. Started twenty-one at Concord and shot seventeen. We had three double shots during the day. The birds, as a rule, rose rather lazily but often flew surprisingly long distances. One very large bird which had been started several times passed high over a large tract of birches where we had first found him, and scaling over the top of sope tall oaks beyond alighted in an opening on the further side after a flight of at least five hundred yards. All these birds with the exception of two, were found on birch hillsides and as a rule on the very outskirts of the thickets. They averaged large in size and in every instance whistled as they rose. Melvin believes that they run and feed during the day at this season, a theory borne out by to-day's experience, for our dogs seemed to find scent everywhere and often "roaded" birds several rods before flushing them. Moreover their borings and chalk-marks were not concentrated in one spot as is the case in summer when Woodcock is resident in the locality.

" 23. Started four at Concord all of very small size.

" 23. A Woodcock which we started in a clump of birches bordering a potato dield had been feeding all over this field, as was conclusively shown by the numerous borings etc. At such a season as this when these birds without exception are found on high dry ground, this fact is of expecial interest.

" 30. Started a very large bird on the edge of some birches in Belmont. W e fired shots at it when it fell in some alders within twenty yards of us. Upon putting in my setter he followed its track thirty yards or more out into an open meadow where, to my surprise, it rose apparently as well as ever. Another shot, however, brought it down broken-winged. After picking it up and

Philohela minor.

1874.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Oct.30) while admiring its beautiful plumage and bright hazel eyes it suddenly began to flap its uninjured wing, each stroke of which produced a distinct note of the characteristic whistle, thus finally settling the question as to whether this sound is produced by the wings or by vocal organs.

1875.

Apr. 17. On April 15 I visited Carlisle to hear Woodcock sing but none were either seen or heard. Mr.Robbins heard them there three nights in succession. The 8th, 9th, and 10th; he has heard none since.

" 24. Found a nest in the Warren Run, Waltham. In searching for it my setter first pointed the male; after making sure that it did not rise from the nest I started the dog on again and he soon came to another point. Feeling sure of the nest this time I scrutinized the ground in all directions ahead of him in hopes of discovering the sitting bird. I could see nothing, however, but the universal woodland carpet of dry leaves and many tinted mosses with Antiopo Butterflies playing about in the sunshine until, taking another step towards the statuesque setter, I placed my hand for support, on a small birch sapling, when, with hanging legs and a scarce audible flutter, a large Woodcock sprang from the ground at my very feet and rising straight up among the birches, whistledoff in the usual manner. Looking down there were the eggs four in number, conspicuous enough now on their bed of dry oak leaves and grasses. After taking a good at them I withdrew about fifty yards and concealed myself in hope that the old bird would return, but she did not although I waited there just an hour by the watch. This nest was placed at the foot of a birch sapling on top of a little mound where it was elevated scarcely more than a foot above the surrounding water. It was in about the middle of a springy run. The cover though dense along the border of the run was, in the neighborhood of the nest, low and scanty. The nest was composed chiefly of leaves and dry grasses carefully and smoothly arranged, and was distinctly hollowed in the centre. A few feathers from the Bird's breast were mingled with the other materials. The eggs had been incubated about a week The male which I flushed first was lying some twenty yards from his sitting mate.

June 15. Four young Woodcock accompanied by their mother in tall maple and oak grove bordering a brook. Two of the young rose first quickly followed by the old bird. The whole five were lying close together but scattered in all directions when flushed. Following one of the young birds I started it again when it went off strongly, flying at least two hundred yards. At this the mother, who

Philohela minor.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(June 15) had disappeared at the first alarm, r eturned and flying slowly by with dangling legs, alighted within ten yards and spreading her wings fluttered off over the leaves trying to entice me to follow her. The young were about two-thirds grown; neither they nor the mother whistled when flying.

July 5. Started three in the Warren Run, all young birds, full grown and in good condition. Two were in thick scrub oaks on a hillside, the other in long grass in a meadow.

" 30. Startee a very large bird under apple trees in Belmont.

Sept.13. Shot one in the Maple Swamp. It rose without making a particle of noise.

" 18. Two at Concord, one on a birch hillside, the other among dense alders in a wet run; one whistled, the other rose silently; both were in the middle of the moult.

" 24. Melvin started ten at Concord; he considers this the first flight.

Nov. 2. Melvin started six to-day and the same number yesterday (Concord).

1876.

Mar. 14. Two were seen in Melrose March 12. Goodale tells me that he had one brought to him December 6, 1875, which had been killed in Waltham the previous day.

Apr. 8. Five started in the Cotton Run by Deane.

" 25. Searched the Warren Run carefully for a nest my setter found and started a male Woodcock within six feet of where I took the nest last year but I could find neither the female nor the nest to-day.

" 30. Hunted again for the Wodcock's nest in the Warren Run but could not find it, although the we started the male in nearly the same spot where he was seen on the 25th.

May 3. Melvin showed me a nest at Carlisle. The female was sitting and three of us accompanied by a pointer dog approached within arms length of the nest without disturbing her and sitting down in a circle about it watched her for at least fifteen minutes. During this time she remained perfectly still, the slight, almost imperceptible, movement of the tail and back alone betraying the rapid beating of her anxious heart. Her full dark eyes, however, regarded us calmly and during all the time

Philohela minor.

1876.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(May 3)! that we were sitting there I noticed noticed that she did not once wink. For a moment a stray beam from the setting sun found its way through a rent in the clouds and lighted up the quiet little woodland nook, lending an additional lustre to the bird's dark eye and deepening the brown tints of her marble plumage. The merry peep of the hylas came up from the neighboring swamp, and a Robin burst into song from the top of a neighboring pine but still the Woodcock stirred not. At length, cautiously extending my hand, I actually touched her tail with my fingerstips, then her back, stroking the feathers gently. Finally pressing down a little so that she felt the weight of my hand she sprang with startling suddenness directly from the nest, whistling loudly as she rose, then dropping to the ground tumbled about among the oak leaves uttering a complaining noise so deep and low that it sounded almost like a surpressed growl. I followed her a little way when she again rose and made off through the tree-tops.

This nest was about fifty yards from a densely wooded run on high ground in a little opening surrounded by scattering hazeland alder bushes. It was rather more substantial than the nest which I found last year and was composed outwardly of leaves and lined so thoroughly with dry grasses that the exterior material was entirely concealed. The hollow was rather shallow, the whole nest so small that the sitting bird covered it entirely. The eggs were four in number and the handsomest set that I ever seen.have ever seen. This nest was found April 28 when the nest was complete.

" 23. Started a pair together in Concord but could find neither eggs nor young. They rose with a heavy whiring as loud as, and in every way similar to, that produced by Ruffled Grouse.

Sept.13. Started six in "Hall's" Concord.

" 21. Found several lately among birch and hazel cover on hillsides.

" 28. Started one in Birches (Concord).

" 29. One among birches (Concord).

Oct. 9. Started four (Concord).

" 11. Two (Concord).

" 12. Three (Concord).

" 16. Started thirteen among birches in a limited area in Concord. The ground was covered with about two inches of snow which fell yesterday and the whole country is said to have been swarming with Woodcock to-day. But few were seen afterwards this season.

Philohela minor.

1876.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Oct.17) Started only one in "Hall's", Concord, to-day.

" 19. Found one at Concord in some scrub oaks barely knee high.

" 26 Started one at Concord.

" 27 Started one at Concord.

Dec. 5. Nesbitt started one in Belmont. The last was seen at Concord ~~October 27~~.November 27.

1879.

Oct. 7. One which I shot at Connord was still moulting about the head and throat. It weighed seven and one quarter ounces and was very fat. The fat unlike that of most waders was of a lucious, melting qality like that of the Connecticut Warbler.

1880.

Oct. 11. Started four at Concord in the space of a few square rods. They were in low second-growth oaks interspersed with a few birches. They were all fine, vigorous birds, rising with a clear, ringing whistle and taking long flights. They probably came in last night as there were few signs among the leaves where they lay. I believe Woodcocks, like Snipe, often migrate in flocks of small parties. In no other way can I explain the finding of somany-birds in so limited a space, while neighboring and equally faverable covers remained unoccupied.

" 12. On the ground where I killed the Woodcock yesterday I could find none this morning. Bordering that covert, however, is a beated tract with isolated clusters of sprouts and an occasional leafless dog wood. Here within the space of a few rods I flushed and killed four birds. They were certainly not here yesterday. Three of the four were males, two of them young birds; the fourth was an adult female.

" 23. One at Concord; they are scarce this season.

1881.

Oct. 27. During the past three weeks I have not found a single Woodcock at Concord; nevertheless some of the other sportsmen have shot a good many. One man is reported to have killed forty-one in Haverhill in two days.

Philohela minor.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1872.

June 5. Among the thickly growing young firs and spruces behind the mill I started a female with a brood of four young. Which were so well grown that they looked scarcely smaller than the old bird and flew equally well. The ice is said to have gone out of the Lake only three weeks before this date.

1873.

Aug. 2. At the lower settlement on the Megalloway I was told that this species had lately appeared and was getting abundant.

" 12. On the muddy bank of Cambridge River about two miles above the dam, I came upon a Woodcock which was feeding on the edge of the water. Still further up I found the mud, both on the bank and among the alders, bored in many places by these birds.

" 14. Again to-day, found numerous borings along the heavily timbered banks of Cambridge River above the dam.

Sept.14. Five more started among the dense young firs and spruces behind the mill.

1874.

July 25. Started five from a spring-hole behind the house.

Aug. 4. Beat all the coverson Upton Hill without starting a bird. The season is very wet, and it is probably that they have taken to the forest.

Sept.10. Started five and killed four in the cover by the Lake on the Sargent Farm. Only one or two whistled, the others rising with a heavy flutter and going off silently. They were nearly through the moult however.

1876.

June 2. Early in the evening heard one calling in the birches on the edge of Abbott's pasture. Upon comparing his cry with that of the Nighthawks circling over head at the time I found it to be very similar but less loud and more vibrating. The Woodcock finally rose whistling sharply and descended in an easy spiral to the height of at least six hundred feet, then sang exactly as noted in April 1874, but more feebly. He afterwards uttered his cry for a long time but did not rise again.

Philohela minor.

Weiro (Jacks County).

1873.

June 5. [illegible] Fire [illegible] woods behind [illegible] Hill Farm. Female with [illegible] of four young. Which were so small [illegible] they looked scarcely larger than their old bird. They squatted well. The [illegible] came out of the woods and across [illegible] fields.

1878.

Apr. 2. A [illegible] on the meadows I was told that [illegible] and lately [illegible] and was getting [illegible].

" 12. One [illegible] dog [illegible] two [illegible] above [illegible] was feeding on [illegible] meadow. Still [illegible] up I found [illegible] on the beach and [illegible] bored in [illegible] Lake [illegible].

" 14. April [illegible] River above [illegible].

Sept. 14. [illegible] Fire and [illegible].

1881.

July 26. [illegible] the horse.

Apr. 4. [illegible] Hill [illegible] shining. The [illegible] and to be [illegible] [illegible] Forest.

Sept. 1. [illegible] covered by [illegible] with a heavy flutter and going off at [illegible]. [illegible] with lower.

1890.

June 2. [illegible] in the [illegible] Hill [illegible] over head at [illegible] I [illegible] Loss Land and [illegible] flushing [illegible] of [illegible] 1884 [illegible] in [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible].

Philohela minor.

1876.

Maine (Lake [illegible]).

June 5. To the hill above Abbot's I was anxious to hear the Woodcock sing. He began calling shortly after sunset, and a minute or two later accompanied his call with the first time, I saw it [illegible] whole performance. Upon his [illegible] his descent his wings were beaten rapidly at intervals of calling between; a little lower down he began darting in zig-zag lines with arrow-like speed tracing a course not unlike that pursued by a flock of little [illegible]. A big [illegible] some [illegible] sweep. [illegible] down nearly to the ground then with set wings pitched headlong to the spot where he had risen. The bursts of melody corresponded so closely with the [illegible] of the zig-zag descent that it really seemed as if the sound they were been produced by the wings.

" 11. Go to the hill to find Abbot's [illegible] to hear the woodcock. He [illegible] only once, and [illegible] little way, whistling faintly [illegible] of singing.

1879.

June 12. Started three old birds along Peaslee's brook.

" 2 Started an old bird in a [illegible] of spruces.

" 22. Unusually [illegible] this season. I saw them almost daily, especially [illegible] of "savins"--as the young firs and spruces are named here.

1880.

May 16. Two [illegible] in the Peaslee clearing [illegible] breeding.

" 17. Set B-4. Incubated four days--ground by side of low mound partially overarched by fir shrubs. Female sitting; she rose at least fifteen feet ahead, soaring directly to the top of the trees, whistling faintly, then circling. Male started out fifty yards from the spot. In second-growth wild cherry, poplar, yellow birch and alder by the lake shore. Vicinity of the nest very swampy and wet, and the mound upon which it was placed surrounded by pools of water.

" " Set C-[illegible]. Fresh--[illegible], at the edge of lake on three leafless [illegible] partially [illegible] overspread by [illegible] of little fir. [illegible]; I stepped within six inches of her before she rose. Then she flew directly away whistling faintly, and [illegible] open pasture to some thickets beyond. Male started about forty yards off. This nest was practically in the open pasture, or rather the corner of it where two adjoining [illegible] and [illegible] on a [illegible] of saplings; the ground [illegible] dry--a steep bank, in fact, bordering the lake.

Philohela minor.

1880.

Maine Lake Umbagog).

(May 23) One sing in [illegible] by the roadside above Peaslee's. His song once described it is most like the notes of a water-whistle and is certainly very rich and sweet. In the case of this performer it was also well sustained. I was sufficiently near him to hear the croaking ot-ul which precedes each utterence of the harsh pa'a'a'a; the latter is like the twang of a bow-string.

June 4. Exceedingly abundant here this season; we started four old birds on one spot on Peaslee's Brook this morning. Mr. Goewin reports seeing a nest with four eggs at the Middle Dam yesterday. A river driver happened to see the sitting bird and stooping, lifted her off the eggs and brought her to camp. She was liberated shortly afterwards and returned immediately to the nest. The next day an ox stepped in in it and broke all the eggs.

Sept. 2. Two moulting; shot among brakes by the Lake shore.

" 3. Found two behind More's, one in alders, the other in scattered birches on the hill-side. The latter bird alighted on the smooth turf within ten yards of me, running a few steps and then squatting in the foot-print of an ox.

" 4. One shot in a cornfield on Upton Hill.

" 8. One among birches and poplars on Abbott's hill.

1881.

May 13. My setter found and pointed a female as she sat on the nest. I [illegible] before she flew. She rose heavily without whistling, and dropped again within twenty feet. We had previously started a male about fifty yards away; he flew directly towards the nest and alighted within fifteen feet of it. When the female was flushed he also rose with a heavy flutter and dropping to the ground again simulated lameness. The locality was a thicket of mixed yellow spruces, birches, and willows with openings at frequent intervals, a favorite haunt of these birds in September, when they lie concealed there among the tall ferns. The nest was on the top of a little mound partially protected from the weather, and from observation, by the overhanging branch of a small spruce. The four eggs which it contained lay in a deep saucer-shaped hollow lined with a few dry leaves; they looked fresh and I did not disturb them.

" 14. Heard one singing a number of times this evening by the roadside near Peaslee's.

Philohela minor.

1881.

Maine (Lake Abagog).

(May 15). Visited the place where I heard the bird singing last evening. My setter found him in small, thinly-growing willows near the fence. Upon flushing him he simply hopped the fence and alighted in a pool of water on the other side, standing in a natural attitude without showing any fear of us. He was calling last night in the open pasture inside the fence. He is a remarkably fine singer, his water-whistle notes being full and sweet.

" 16. One sang several times this evening in the Abbott clearing. He was by far the finest singer I ever heard, his water notes being of pure tone and some of these and his song lasted nearly half a minute, each note ringing out clear and distinct above the roaring wind and splashing rain.

" 19. For the past two years woodcock have been numerous in the second south about the Middle Dam; but last year a few of their nests were broken up by cattle and eighteen birds were killed there in September. This year not one has been either seen or heard in the vicinity.

1882.

Oct.8-22 Two or three in every good cover. I found, however that those killed no others took their places and I failed to detect evidence of any flight from the north. Alva tells me, however, that during a snow-storm on October 4 and 5 1881, he and Mr.Betton killed twelve and saw as many more in a piece of poplars behind the Lake House.

1883.

Oct. 17. Two among some thick alders near the Lake shore.

" 18. Shot one among ferns near the Lake shore.

Philohela minor.

1869.
July & Aug. I saw none here but was told by an old trapper, that he once started one in the vicinity from the edge of an alder swamp (Glen House, N.H.).

1874.

Jan. 24. Captain Baxter tells me that he started one late in December at Marston's Mills. He believes thatthey winter there.

Mar. 1. Arthur Smith tells me that he killed a Woodcock about the middle of January last in Brookline. Started it from a spring- hole in an open field where the snow was about a foot deep. It was emaciated and apparently sick.

Nov. 10. Melvin started one to-day at Concord, and six on the 8th.

1875.
Oct. 21. We found their borings in several cornfields (Marston's Mills,Mass.).

Gallinago wilsoni.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1865.
Oct. 10. About sunset heard repeated harsh, grating sounds in the marshy island behind Mt.Auburn and ~~frequently~~ finally a pair of Snipe rose high into the air and flew off towards Charles River.

1867.
Nov. 13. Started two just at dark from a brook running through a meadow. The ground is partly covered with snow and all the small ponds and meadows frozen ~~over~~.hard.

1868.

May 1. Shot three.

" 5. Saw one.

" 6. Saw one. The day was cold and windy and he rose wild

Sept. 5. Saw three (Cambridge).

" 19. With the first faint light in the east this morning Snipe began to fly over the Fresh Pond marshes in large numbers, their notes sounding unusually harsh, and short in the stillness. The last few nights have been cold for the season. Owing to the excess of water this year the birds are rather poor.

" 24 The day was rainy and the birds wild. At the first report of our guns all the Snipe in the vicinity rose, and joined one another in the air until twelve were flying together, and with them, a Pectoral Sandpiper. They must have kept on wing for over an hour, now pitching down to the meadows, and scaling close over the tussocks, now rising high in air and sweeping around in large circles, or perhaps flying out of sight, only to return again after an absence of a few minutes.

Oct. 10. Shot five. The weather was warm and the day still, consequently they lay very close. Indeed six or seven started by a dog rose like Rails, their legs hanging down, and alighted again after flying only a few yards.

" 15. A driving rain storm this afternoon; I found the meadows full of Snipe and killed a number.

" 16. Shot a number this morning.

" 23. Started one from the middle of the road in Cambridge port. It was probably benumbed by the cold, as it allowed me to get within a few feet of it before rising.

" 26 While in the Fresh Pond swamps this morning, waiting for the coming light, I heard numbers of Snipe flying about over their favorite retreat.

Nov. 23 Several were seen to-day on the Arlington meadows.

Gallinago wilsoni.

1869.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Apr. 6. Shot one to-day.

" 14. Heard one just at dusk, high up in air, making that weird humming ~~noise~~ sound peculiar to this species.

" 24. I listened for sometime this evening, to a number of Snipe drumming over a large meadow and heard one, which had just finished drumming, and was probably, at the time, on his way to the ground, utter a shrill hec-hec-hec-hec. On several occasions this spring I have known a male continue his drumming flight for nearly an hour without the slightest intermission. They seem to prefer fine moonlight nights for their concerts, and probably extend them throughout the hours of darkness, for I have heard them as late as 10 P.M.

Sept. & Oct. We had literally no Snipe on our meadows this autumn; At Concord itxwas the same, and is quite an unheard of thing there, as their fall grounds are perfection for Snipe, and usually furnish the very finest shooting. They must have avoided the state all together this season.

1870.

Apr. 9. Saw two and too k one of them, but was unable to find the surviver; soon after sunset it began to "drum" overhead and continued it along as I remained in the vicinity.

" 13. Started upwards of a dozen in the course of the day.

" 23. Saw about a dozen and took three.

" 25. Saw four.

" 26. Saw upwards of a dozen.

Sept. & Oct. All the Snipe meadows being completely dried up by the excessive drought, the birds were driven to the beds of ditches and streams and the shores of ponds, for foor. What few I shot were much emaciated.

1871.

Mar. 20. Shot the first of the season; it had ~~apparently~~ probably just arrived as it was apparently much exhausted and very thin. A most careful searchof the most likely meadows revealed no traces of others.

Apr. 6. Three were seen on the Belmont meadows.

" 13. Started eight on the Belmont meadows and shot five.

" 14. Started five in the Fresh Pond marshes.

" 15. Flushed only two birds in a hard days tramp on the Belmont meadows.

Gallinago wilsoni.

1870:

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Apr.17) Started five on the Fresh Pond marshes.

" 18. Started about sisteen in all on the Deadham marshes.

" 19. Found only one bird on the Fresh Pond marshes.

" 20. Saw eleven in all on the Concord marshes. The day was dark and cloudy with an east wind and rain falling steadily, and the birds consequently very wild, flying about in flocks like so many Ducks or Bay Birds.

" 22. Saw between thirty and forty on the Concord medows and with Carter bagged twenty-three.

1871.

Apr. 26. Beat the Concord meadows carefully and started only one bird.

May 1. Four were found in the Fresh Pond marshes and three of them were shot by J.Nesbit. These were the last of the season. The flight, in this section of the cou ntry, has been unusually heavy, beginning early and lasting late. We had the best shooting at Concord although we tried Deadham and other noted localities. The Concord meadows are very large, extending for miles on both sides of the river, and offering every attraction for the birds. At this season they are covered by a short growth of green grass, and being a lmost perfectly smooth and level, the bids were very wild there, usually rising out of range until driven back inton the runs or broken ground about tthe edges where they frequently lay like stones. Singular tricks are sometimes played by this species. We started one that pitched near the edge of a broad ditch, entered the water, swam across, and walked into a thicket of birches on the other side. When we followed with the dog it kept flirting up flying a few yards with dangling legs, and thendropping to the ground and running over the leaves like a Sandpiper, without in the least attempting concalment. When finally driven out it took a long flight across the open and pitched into another thicket of birches and oaks. Upon being started here it soared directly up like a Woodcockand was shot as it was topping a high birch. On another occasion while walking along the river where the banks were high and dry, we came, late in the afternoon, to a promontory only a few rods square which stretched out into the ater, its surface broken by small mounds and hillocks. When nearly opposite this, three Snipe started from the edge of the water, and flying across, alighted on the promontory. Upon going ~~tenthespot~~ to the spot we flushed eight the first rise, and four or five more the second. Of these we killed three or four and marked the remainder down in an adjoining mea-

Gallinago wilsoni.

1871.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(May 1) dow; following them we found the place absolutely alive with birds and had good sport there until it became too dark to shoot longer. Two days after this we visited Concord again and went immediately to the promontory but neither there nor in the meadow above could we start a single bird. We then beat the Great Meadows a mile or more below where we had fair sport through the day. Returning in the afternoon it occured to us to try the promontory once more and scarcely had we entered it when six birds jumped up and in a few moments, four more: following them into the meadow above, what was our surprise to find that also full of Snipe, twenty-five or thirty starting in a few rises. All these were marked down across the river, but in going back to cross the bridge we passed the promontory when six or eight fresh birds rose from it. The next morning we beat this ground again without finding a bird but an accident compelling us to take the noon train home, we were unable to visit it in the afternoon when, without much doubt, we should have found it well stocked as before. All three days were warm, sunny, and perfectly clear. Now whence came these numerous birds? We could not have driven them up from the meadows below as we killed nearly all that we saw there, and none of the survivers flew in that direction. Neither could they have been driven by other sportsmen, as none were shooting on any of the rivers meadows on either day, and there are no other Snipe grounds for miles. Another remarkable fact was that in neither place did we find either borings or chalk-marks. This showed conclusively that the birds had not been there long otherwise such signs would not have been wanting. Moreover neither meadow nor promontory was adapted for a feeding-ground both being of the same character,--dry and covered with hillocks.

Oct. 16. Four were shot to-day on the Fresh Pond meadow. Deane heard two passing over one evening in the latter part of August but though September the weather was so dry that only a few stragglers were observed. A flight began to-day and lasted till about October 30. The Nesbitts killed eleven birds one day. While on a visit to Marston's Mills, Cape Cod, I was told by several old and reliable sportsmen that Snipe winter there regularly in considerable numbers, living in springy places on the edge of the salt marshes.

1872.

Apr. 6. One (Deane).

" 7. One (Nesbitt).

" 9. Saw one at Concord).

" 13. Four (Nesbitt).

"

Gallinago wilsoni.

1872.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Apr.16) Thirteen were started to-day, eleven of them on the Belmont meadows. On April 12 these meadows were frozen hard and not a Snipe could be found.

" 17. Visited a field near the ~~Peder~~ powder house Medford, which is reported to have been swarming with Snipe yesterday but found only four or five remaining; the place was a large ploughed field with a rain-water pond in the middle. Also started fourteen Snipe on the Belmont meadows. All these birds must have come during the rain storm of the 16th. The frost is not yet entirely out of the meadows.

" 25. Three in Belmont and twelve ay Wayland. Found two in an old corn-filed where the ground was soft and wet; one flew to an apple orchard on a hill-top, where he lay closely under a small bush pile.

May 7. Two on the Fresh Pond marshes, one at Wayland, thirty at Concord.

" 12. A single bird shot at Concord.

1874.

Mar. 26. One seen in the Fresh Pond marshes although the ground is still frozen underneath.

May 5-9 The Nesbitts tell me there was a good flight of Snipe during this time; seven being killed on the 5th, and more or less daily up to the 9th.

Sept.28. Started five on the Fresh Pond marshes.

" 30. One which I shot at set his wings, sailed about ten yards and dropped into a thicket of tall bushes interlaced with briars. My setter hunted this closely for at least half an hour but failed to find him.

Oct. 1. In the evening twilight one passed over my head in the Fresh Pond marshes flying with almost inconceivable swiftness. The scaipe of these Snipe sounds much richer and deeper when they are flying about after dark, than in the day time. Robert Nesbitt tells me that he started a flock of at least fifty Wilson's Snipe this morning. They rose several hundred yards ahead and flew directly out of sight.

" 3. Saw about twenty-five on the Fresh Pond marshes. They lay remarkably close, six in one instance rising from nearly the same place, giving us time to change shells between each shot.

Gallinago wilsoni.

1874.

Middlesex County, Mass .

(Oct.3) Large numbers on the Fresh Pond m rshes, all, I think flight birds which have dropped in during the night We killed eighteen. They lay remarkably well, and flew long distances, we started twon on spring ground near Hill's Crossing. One, an enormous bird which I finally killed, alighted in a field of standing corn after being flushed from a meadow.

" 9. Started three on the Fresh Pond marshes. One which I had a good chance to watch was standing erect in a watchful attitude on a mud bank After a while, every thing being quiet, he drew up one leg and poising himself on the other, shortening his neck until his head rested between his shoulders, saw for a long time with half closed eyes dozing in the sunshine. Occasionally he would give a quick start, shake his feathers and turning his head on one side apparently listen for the movement of some earth worm beneath the surface. When I began to alk towards him he straightened up for an instant then crouching with his bill raised to an angle of about 45° stood ready for a spring. At every step that I took forward he lowered his body a trifle more and finally, with a hoarse scaipe, sprang lightly into the air.

" 14. Started ten in the Fresh Pond marshes.

" 20. Abundance of signs all over the marshes but I could find only one bird, a gunner whom I met had been over the ground yesterday with similarly poor success. On th 15th, however, he started thirteen Snipe there and six on each of the two following days.

" 26. Heard two flying over the Fresh Pond marshes in the evening twilight.

Mar.-22.
1875.

Mar. 22 A Snipe captured by some boys in West Newton was brought to Jessie Warren last week. It was found with its bill literally frozen fast in the mud.

Apr. 2. Started three in the bushy swamp near the Fresh Pond crossing. They were exceedingly wild rising out of range and flying out of sight. Not the most sheltered spring-hole is as yet fairly thawed out, the meadows where they lay were frozen as hard as rocks, and the hylas have not yet begun to peep.

" 10. Started two in the Fresh Pond swamps; probably the same birds seen there on the second . Heard the first hyla to-day.

Gallinago wilsoni.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass .

(Apr.12) One in the Fresh Pond marshes, evidently the same bird seen there on the 10th. The ground in the neighborhood was thickly bored.

" 17. One in the Fresh Pond marshes. I do not think there has been any considerable flight of these birds as yet. The meadows in most places are still frozen hard underneath and no green thing has started anywhere except in sunny spots on the uplands.

" 22. Spent an hour or more watching nine in the corner of a meadow near Fresh Pond crossing. My attention was first attracted to them by hearing a ~~Snipe~~ e remarkable note which I recognized as one I heard uttered by a Snipe on the Belmont meadows several years ago. Approaching cautiously and peeping through the fringe of bushes I discovered a large Snipe basking in the sun on the top of a tussock and several others within a few yards on ~~an~~-adjoining mounds, all within thirty yards of me. Frequently one would doze in the sunshine for minutes at a time supported on one leg only, the other drawn up among his feathers. Others were preening their plumage, using their long bills most adroitly and frequently passing through them the feathers of their wide-spread tail. Two or three were always engaged in boring; this interesting operation reminded me forcibly of eel spearing. The Snipe standingv in a crouching attitude with its body nearly horizontal thrust down its bill, never vertically, but invariably at an incline forward of about 45°. The thrusts were made with astonishing quickness at least two each second. While thus engaged the bird stood perfectly still, lunging out on all sides just as the eel spearer does. A worm seemed to be captured once in about a dozen thrusts. When struck it was drawn out rapidly(again recalling the quick hand over hand of the Eel spear) elevated for a moment in the air, then swallowed with a shake or two of the birds head. Occasionally one of these Snipe would flit like a Solitary Sandpiper for a few yards and alight on the ice (the meadow was covered with water to the depth of nearly a foot), standing a moment with upraised wings, then walking in a crouching attitude to some exposed mound of earth. Once five or six of them walked in single file across a wide expanse of bare ice their crouching attitudes and stealthy steps reminding me of those of a file of Indians on the war path. This crouching attitude was almost invariably assumed when they were walking about, the neck drawn in between the shoulders, the bill invariably pointing downward. When basking in the sun, however, the body was nearly erect, the head thrown back, the bill resting on the breast. At frequent intervals one or another of them would utter the cry just refered to. It was a rapidly given cup-cup-cup-cup-cup-cup-cup, uttered with a slightly falling inflection and occasionally varied to: kep-kep-kep etc. Once I saw one make a run at another holding his long bill couched nearly hori-

Calling Wilson.

Middlesex County, Mass.

One in the Fresh Pond marshes, a ridbelly the same bird seen there on the 10th. The ground in the marshy portion was thickly bored.

One in the Fresh Pond marshes. I do not think there has been any considerable flight of those birds as yet. The meadows in most places are still frozen hard underneath and no green thing has started anywhere except in sunny spots on the uplands.

Spent an hour or more watching nine in the corner of a meadow near Fresh Pond crossing. My attention was first attracted to them by hearing a shrill remarkable note which I recognized as one I heard uttered by a Snipe on the Belmont meadows several years ago. Approaching cautiously and peeping through the fringe of bushes I discovered a large Snipe basking in the sun on the top of a tussock and several others within a few yards on surrounding mounds, all within thirty yards of me. Frequently one would come in the sunshine for minutes at a time supported on one leg only, the other drawn up among his feathers. Others were preening their plumage, using their long bills most adroitly and frequently passing through them the feathers of their wide-spread tail. Two or three were always engaged in sorting; this interesting operation reminded me vividly of owl sparring. The Snipe standing in a crouching attitude, never vertically, but invariably at an inclined forward of about 45°. The thrusts were made with astonishing quickness at least two each second. While thus engaged the bird stood perfectly still, lunging out on one in about a dozen thrusts. When bill was drawn out rapidly(again reminding the quick hand of the Owl sparer) elevated for a moment, then swallowed with a snap or two of the mandibles. Occasionally one of these Snipe would flit like a miniature Sandpiper for a few yards and alight on a foot), standing a moment with upraised wings, in a crouching attitude to some exposed mound of earth. Once five or six of them walked in single file of Indians on the war path. This crouching attitude was almost invariably assumed when they were walking about, the most drawn in between the shoulders, the bill invariably pointing downward. When basking in the sun, [illegible] one. Once I saw one make a [illegible] his long bill touched nearly horizontal

Gallinago wilsoni.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Apr.22) zontally like a lance in rest. His adversary, however, declined the combat and turning tail sneaked off quickly into the grass. I returned to this spot in the evening twilight, hoping to hear the Snipe drum. Only two went out of the swamp at dusk both simply uttering the usual scaipe.

" 23. Lingering among the bushes on the edge of Pout Pond it was most interesting to hear the variety of bird's and other voices as day passed into night. The Robins ended the former period with a grand chorus; a brief interval of silence followed broken only by the incessant rasp of the wood ~~border-~~ borers in the dead larch on the further side of the pond. The next moment a weird winnowing of wings began directly overhead ulminating in almost a shreik, and fairly startled me for a moment until I recognized the author, a Wilson's Snipe. At the same time several others rose from the marsh to the westward each giving his sharp scaipe as he flew, while an answering drum came from the Block Island meadow. Finally the merry peep of the hylas swelled up from every pool, and with the croaking of numerous Ranahalecina formed a chorus that would last till the following dawn, a few minutes later a lnge Owl sailed overhead, dimly outlined against the sky.

May 8. Stared six on the ~~Geneer~~ meadows at Concord. They flew directly out of sight.

Sept.18. Beat the Great Meadows at Concord thoroughly but found only one Snipe.

Oct. 7. Saw five in the Fresh Pond swamps. Nesbitt tells me that he killed seven last week, about swampy places in the fields.

" 9. Started four on the edge of the Great Meqows and three from the borders of a pool of rain water in a ploughed field (Concord).

Nov. 15. Melvin shot one at Concord--the last bird of the season.

1876.

Apr. 1. One, the first of the season; was seen in the Brickyard Swamp. The frost is all out of the ground the grass on sunny exposures getting green, and I heard the first hylas to-day.

" 22. The Nesbitts shot eleven in the Fresh Pond marshes to-day, most of them in the Brickyard Swamp.

" 30. Two in Fresh Pond swamps.

May 2. Started sixteen at Concord.

(Apr.22) zontally like a lance in rest. His adversary, however, declined the combat and turning, tail aboaked off quickly into the grass. I returned to this spot in the evening twilight, hoping to hear the Snipe drum. Only two left out of the swamp at dusk both silently uttering the usual [illegible].

" 23. Hingering among the bushes on the edge of Bout Pond it was most interesting to hear the variety of bird's and other voices as day passed into night. The Robins [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] terval of silence followed broken only by the pleasant rasp of the wood ~~[illegible]~~- borers in the dead larch on the further side of the ~~[illegible]~~ pond. The next moment a weird winnowing of wings began directly overhead, alighting in almost a shriek, and fairly startled me for a moment until I recognized the author, a Wilson's Snipe. At the same time several others rose from the marsh to the westward soon giving his sharp ~~[illegible]~~ as he flew, while an answering drum came from the Block Island meadow. Finally the merry peep of the hylas swelled up from every pool, and with the croaking of numerous Pickerelweed formed a chorus that would last till the following dawn. a few minutes later a large Owl sailed overhead, dimly outlined against the sky.

May 8. Stayed six on the ~~[illegible]~~ meadows at Concord. They flew directly out of sight.

Sept.18. Beat the great Meadows at Concord thoroughly but found only one Snipe.

Oct. 7. Saw five in the Fresh Pond swamps. Nesbitt tells me that he killed seven last week, about swampy places in the fields.

" 9. Started four on the edge of the Great Meadows and three from the borders of a pool of rain water in a [illegible].

Nov. 15. Melvin shot one at Concord--the last bird of the [illegible].

1911.

Apr. 1. One, the first of the season, was seen in the Bridge- [illegible] grass on sunny exposures getting green, and I heard the [illegible].

" 22. The Nesbitts shot eleven in the Fresh Pond marshes to-day, most of them in the Brickyard Swamp.

" 30. Two in Fresh Pond swamps.

May 2. Started sixteen at Concord.

Gallinago wilsoni.

1876.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(May 8) Nesbitt shot three in the Fresh Pond swamps.

Sept.10. Seven at Concord.

" 13. Snipe eight at Concord.

Oct. 12. One (Concord River).

Nov. 9. One on the Fresh Pond marshes.

1879.

Apr. 26. Six seen by Spelman in the Fresh Pond swamps.

July 13. Humphrey Buttrick tells me that several pairs of these Snipe, having passed the summer on the Great Meadows (Concord) and are undoubtedly breeding. On July 4th he flushed six birds, all apparently adults. He has heard them in the evening on many different occasions.

1881.

S

Sept.30. Flushed one from a ditch at Block Island within ten yards of the spot where I killed one in 1871.

Oct. 11. Numbers have been shot within the past few days on the salt marshes bordering Charles River; the fresh water marshes and swamps are entirely dry after the severe drought. Garfield shot twelve on the Great Meadows at Concord on the 9th.

" 13. Started three (Concord).

Gallinago wilsoni.

1873.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Aug. 19. Heard one at the Outlet shortly after dark.

Sept.17 Four were started on the Cambridge River meadows.

" 18. Eight were startedon the meadows.

1880.

Sept. 3. As it was getting dark this evening a pair of Snipe rose from the marsh and climbed the rosy westerk sky until lost in the gloom above whence their hoarse scaipe came back through the still air.

" 4. Shot three on the Cambridge River meadows near the edge of the lower pond. Here rank grass grew in scattered clumps with bare spaces between covered with a velvety turf of emerald-green moss. The ground was everywhere moist and spongy, and there were occasional depressions filled with soft mud and a little water and fairly perforated by Snipe "borings".

" 6. Flushed one [illegible] on [illegible]. It rose with a heavy whirring of the wings and flew off in a perfectly straight course [illegible] in a [illegible]. At the third rise it took a long flight and alighted on the edge of the woods in a deep dry grassy ditch. In the evening twilight as I was paddling up river a Snipe shot close over the boat, its wings making a distinct rushing sound.

" 11. Entering a wide open swamp I flushed most of these birds [illegible] my eye happened to light on a bare space among the rushes and in the very middle was a Snipe standing erect and still. The next moment my setter galloped past and getting the bird's wind wheeled and came to a point. The Snipe, meanwhile, had skulked under an over-hanging leaf of pickerel weed [illegible] squatted in plain sight. It is a beautiful tableau,--the graceful game bird cowering under its [illegible] protection and the intelligent dog, rigid as a statue, staring with fixed eyes [illegible] rinkled forhead at the spot whence the hot scent came to his dilated nostrils. The cool breeze rustled among the leaves and played with the fringe on the dogs tail. Overhead a fish hawk was circling; a flock of titlarks whirled by and a Heron hanked harshly somewhere in the marsh beyond; but the three figures in this central group remained immovable for I had caught something of the setter's spirit and felt reluctent to break the spell. Finally the end came as it always must. The Snipe sprang lightly into the air and dashed off in zig-zag flight, the loud report of the gun rolled over the quiet meadow echoing back from the woods beyond, a few feathers floated on the breeze, and the bird fell lifeless into the tall grass.

Gallinago wilsoni.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

(Sept.13) Judging from the numerous "borings" and other signs there must have been at least a dozen Snipe on the meadow last night but we found only one bird there this morning. The night was just such a one as they commonly choose for migrating, clear, with soft southerly wind and nearly full moon.

" 15. A flock of nine, evidently migrating, came in over the marsh, flying in a bunch like bay-birds. They swept down over one or two favorite spots, then mounting high in the air, went out over Upton Hill. Another bunch of four alighted in the marsh. A driving northeasterly storm at the time, rain falling in torrents.

" 16. Started about a dozen on the marshes near the Outlet. Several lay closely till I passed, then rose two or three gun shots behind me. I came upon one in the very middle of a creek squatting on the surface of the water; his head and neck flattened as if he were on land. After flushing him I examined the spot and found the water only about three inches deep.

" 19. Started four on the meadows below the house.

" 20. Started three on the meadows below the house.

1882.

Oct.8-22 Exceedingly abundant. The marshes were in perfect condition this year and I had fine Snipe shooting, sometimes starting as many as thirty in a few hours. Six or eight were seen October 21, and three October 28 (C.F. Batchelder).

1883.

Oct. 17. Shot one on the meadow.

" 19. Shot seven.

Gallinago winsoni.

1870.
Sept. 8. Just at dusk heard the harsh scaipe of one of these flying over a small piece of reclaimed meadow on the edge of Parling Pond (Maine).

1871.
Oct. 14. Numerous, feeding on the edge of the salt marshes where fresh water springs ooze out from under a high bank. We also found several in small pond-holes in the woods. They are said to winter here in numbers (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

1874.

Jan. 24. Captain Baxter tells me that Snipe are wintering in numbers at Marston's Mills, Cape Cod. They frequent a narrow strip of springy marsh extending two or three miles along the banks of a small river. There the ground never freezes and the grass remains green the winter through.

Nov. 6. Numbers in their winter quarters along the river (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

" 20. Goodale started six at Abbington, Mass. and killed three, all very large fat birds.

1876.

Dec. 5. Explored the winter haunt of the Wlson's Snipe at Marston's Mills and started seven birds there. The place merits detailed description. A brook, averaging about ten feet wide, winds for several miles through one of the most tangled swamps that I have ever seen. In places it runs swiftly over gravelly shallows, in others settles in still, dark pools two or more feet deep. It was formally a famous fishing ground for sea trout. The banks are densely wooded with birch, maples and alders, from fifteen to twenty feet high, and thickly festooned by green briar and wild grape vines. The swamp itself is impenetrable save by the natural pathway formed by the brook, and even this is choked in places by the vine swigg across from bank to bank. At frequent intervals, springy runs which empty into the main stream, spread spread about through the adjoining cover; they never freeze, and to-day I found them as green as in June. Here the Snipe lie and feed most of the time, although they also visit the salt marshes and flats at night when the tide is low. They acted differently from any Snipe I ever saw. As I waded down the course of the brook they would rise among the bushes with a heavy whirring and topping the trees like Woodcock instantly disappear. Occasionally they would start from the bank and flitting low over the water in perfect silence follow the course of the brook for a few yards and alight again. In this way I started one five or six times before I got a shot, always driving him on ahead of me. Only one--which I flushed in a little meadow--flew and scaiped in the usual manner. Captain Baxter tells me

Gallinago wilsoni.

1876.

(Dec.5) that he once saw a Woodcock here in Januarn, and I examined a Virginia Rail which he shot here November 30, 1872. (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

" 7. Hunted the Snipe-swamp a second time and started three birds. (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

Macrorhamphus griseus.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. 15. Saw several small flocks, they decoyed readily.

1870.
Aug.13-31. During this time I did not see a single bird. The the gunners told me that the flight passed before my arrival.

1871.

July 28. A very heavy flight during the continuance of a N.E. rain storm, these Snipe (as well as T.flavipes) flying during a heavy shower. Both species decoyed well, the Snipe the better of the two; neither species when wounded sought concealment but stood boldly in plain sight on the mud, tilting as if unhurt. When caught they screeched loudly.

" 31. Upon watching a number breeding I was struck by the resemblance in their motions to Gallinago They fly and feed in company with Totanus flavipes All killed up to this date have been adults in worn breeding plumage.

Aug. 11. A single young bird shot.

" 30. Fo ur or five passed. Have seen none before for sometime.

" 24. One was shot in the gray "winter plumage". [This is my record. I do not find the bird in my collection and have no present recollection of it Wm.B.1885] .

" 25. A heavy flight all day, several flocks of fifteen or twenty seen. (See general obs). A number killed were all young birds!

1872.

July 22. Saw three late in the day (raine; wind south-east). Thomas Philbrick, a trustworthy gunner, tells me he saw several large flocks on the 20th inst.

" 26. A heavy flight began about 2 P.M. and lasted until dark. The flocks averaged about eight or ten birds each and the intervals between the flocks were usually about ten minutes. These birds came through the marsh against the wind, flying low over the ground and very rapidly, usually in a broad extended front. Sometimes single individuals came in company with "Peeps" which flew in large flocks. Although I had no decoys I bagged twenty-five Snipe which, without a single exception were adult birds. Cloudy, with pouring rain all day, and wind strong from the south-east.

" 27. Clear and pleasant; wind east. A few flocks passed at daylight but none later. Last night, however, about midnight, I was awakened by the whistling clamor of what must have been a very large flocks of these birds passing over the house.

Macrorhamphus griseus.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1872.

(Aug.2) Five or six flocks passed in quick succession about 2 P.M. Clear; wind south-east.

" 3. Several flocks passed in quick succession about 9 A.M. Raining; wind south-east.

" 8. Three only in a very heavy flight of Totanus Flavipes.

" 9. A few " " " " " " " "

" 12. A heavy flight in the afternoon. Cloudy, wind north-east.

" 15. A few seen on the 13th, one, the last, to-day.

Macrorhamphus griseus.

1870.

July 11. I saw several small flocks at Ipswich, Mass, at sunset this evening. The gunners there told me that they had been flying in small numbers for several days.

1874.

June 18. A pair shot while feeding together on a sand beach and another seen. The two killed were male and female and apparently would not have bred this season (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

1875.

Sept. 2. A flock of twelve on the mud-flats Long Island, Boston Harbor. Two shot were both immature birds.

Micropolama himantopus.

1875.
Sept.22. Shot one which was feeding in a flock of of Ereunetes on the shore of a fresh-water pond. Its motions were very like those of the Yellow-leg (Nantucket)?

Rye Beach, New Hampsh ire.

1868.
Aug. 20. One shot by Mr. Dexter on the west shore of the Eel Pond. In motions it closely resembled Totanus flavipes, for which, indeed, we mistook it. It was an adult in summer plumage.

1869.
Aug. 24. Shot a female which was wading in shallow water. In motions, flight, and note she exactly resembled Totanus flavipes.

1871.

July 31. Shot an adult in breeding plumage; it was in a flock of Totanus flavipes

Aug. 9. Shot one in a flock of Totanus flavipes

" 11. Two, one adult in breeding plumage, the other immature, came in together and decoying readily, were shot. They resembled Totanus flavipes so closely while flying that I mistook them for that species. Their notes, however, sounded a trifle harsher.

" 24. A discharge of both barrels into a flock of about twenty Totanus flavipes killed eight of that species and one Micropalama

" 25. A young bird shot this morning.

1872. I do not find this species mentioned among my notes for this year.

Tringa canutus.

1867.
Sept. 3. Two shot (Plymouth, Mass.).

1871.
Sept. 9. A single specimen in gray plumage shot on Ipswich Beach.

1875.
Sept. 21. Shot one in fall plumage on Coatue Point (Nantucket).

1878.
May 8. A large flock (Chatham, Mass.).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. 27. Shot three in gray plumage. They decoyed readily, sailing as they came over the stools. Their call was pill, pill-willet [sic]

1871.
Aug. 19. An adult male, still in the breeding plumage, was shot. (Specimen in my collection).

1872. Not mentioned, and I thin k not seen at all.

Tringa canutus.

1880.

Maine (Lake [illegible]).

May 23. Mr. [illegible] tells [illegible] that [illegible] is [illegible] on [illegible]bagog.

Tringa maritima.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1871.
Oct. 30. Henshaw shot one this morning, on the extreme end of Whittiemore's Point, Cambridgeport.

A few days previously I bought one in Boston Market, which I was assured was from Newburyport marshes.

Tringa martina.

1874.
Mar. 12. Twenty-four received from Grand Menan; very fat; stomachs filled with fragments of a pint crustacean; plumage far thicker than that of other waders; flesh less rank in smell.

1876.

Apr. 12. On one of the larger ledges in Mace's Bay near Point Lepreaux,N.B. we found an immense flock of Purple Sandpipers. Letting the boat drift within ten yards of them we watched them for a long time as they fed in perfect unconcern. At length we shot into them and killed fifteen with three barrels. At the report the scattered bunches on the rocks around collected together into a flock of at least three hundr ed. Their flight was exceedingly rapid and very like that of the Sandling. On the wing they uttered a short quet, quet, while feeding, a low conversational twittering. Their movements were slow and they held their head and bill in very much the same position as the Sandling. In fact they reminded me most strongly of that bird. As the tide rose they collected on the higher rocks in perfect masses. Thomas, the Light-keeper, tells me that they are much more numerous in winter than now; he rarely sees them any where except on this isolated reef of rock.

" 15. A small flock passed the end of the Point (Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 19. A flock of about fifty on the ledges in Mace's Bay, all so shy that it was impossible to get within gun shot (Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

1881.
Jan. 3. Visited Pig Rocks off Swamscott to look for Purple Sandpipers. These rocks lie about a mile from shore in the open ocean. When we reached them the tide as nearly at flood and we found only two ~~exposed oblen~~ oblong rocks exposed, about one hundred yards apart, and of nearly uniform size and shape. Their sides rose nearly vertically from the water to a height of perhaps fifteen feet and their flat tops were covered with snow. Each was approximately twenty yards long by ten yards in width. At low tide they are surrounded by a considerable expanse of ledges, covered with a slippery coating of seaweed which I could see under water, and on the tops of the higher rocks when these emerged for an instant in the rolling swells. On the first rock we found nothing but a Black-backed Gull, standing erect on its snow-capped summit boldly outlined against the sky. As we approached the outer or eastern island, however, I discovered a number of Purple Sandpipers huddled together on its nearly vertical sides where they were well sheltered from the cold wind. My boatman remarked that he should have mistaken them for English Sparrows and they clung to the surface very much as these birds cluster on the sunny slope of a roof on a blustering day.- Occasionally one would stretch his wings above

Tringa maritima.

1881.

(Jan.3) his back,, then deliberately fold them again, otherwise they seldom moved. It was a most interesting sight, that of these hardy Waders perched high over the water with a snow bank above them and ice surges incessantly rolling beneath or breaking in the glistening spray on the half exposed ledges. Their stronghole had been well chosen, for it is rarely calm enough in winter for boats to approach the spot. They are said never to leave these holes except during heavy easterly weather when the surf sometimes breaks completely over them.

After watching the birds for a while I fired into them and secured seven with two barrels. Eight were and these after flying about for a few minutes alighted on the other island where I killed three more. The remaining five then became very shy and I left them. These Sandpipers flew swiftly in a dense cluster, usually just over the crests of the waves. Once or twice they tried to alight on one of the ledges that were beginning to be uncovered by the falling tide, but the surf seemed to frighten them, and after standing for a moment with raised wings they would whirl off again over the sea. When flying they uttred a short quit which closely resembled that of the Sandling. On the Gray rocks they looked nearly black. Once after they had alighted in a cluster in a flat ledge at the base of one of the rocks they scattered about and began to feed. I noticed they walked slowly and deliberately; indeed, all their movements seemed sluggish. On dissection I found their stomachs filled with small shells several of which are whole. Jeffries tells me that he has occasi onally seen them on the mainland during a heavy storm , but at other times they remain on the Pig Rocks. When freshly killed the basal third of the bill is reddish orange, the terminal two-thirds dark brown, these colors shading into one another at their point of contact. The tarsi and toes are stout, fleshy, and brownish-orange in color; the iris is dark hazel. (Swampscott,Mass.).

Tringa maculata.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1874.
Oct. 5. Shot one on the Fresh Pond meadows.

1875.
Oct. 9. At Concord, started a pair from the edge of ~~the~~ a pond of rain water in a ploughed field.

1881.
Oct. 13. Shot one on Great Meadows (Concord).

Tringa maculata.

Maine (Lake Urbagog).

1880.

Sept.15. Shot four feeding together on [illegible] at the mouth of the river.

1882.

Oct.8-22 Common, usually single, but sometimes in flocks of eight or a dozen. Last seen October 17; also October 28 (G. [illegible]).

Tringa maculata.

1871.
Oct. 18. Numerous on the salt marshes (Marston's Mills, Mass).

1875.
Sept.29. One on Coatue Point,Nantucket.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. 15. Saw numbers on the Eel Pond. Their flight is rapid, call-notes harsh and low. They occurred rather numerously during the last of August, usually singly or in pairs; but sometimes in flocks of Totanus flavipes. They were rather shy but when approached would sometimes squat like Snipe. I saw none on the beach. By September 1 they were nu merous.

1869.
Aug.21-28. Found sparingly. The heaviest flights are said to pass later.

1870.
Aug.13-31. Saw them daily, singly, or two or three together; sometimes in company with Tringa minutilla and Ereunetes. None seen on the beach.

1871.

July 27. A moderate flight.

" 28 A good flight during a north-easter. They came in singly, or in pairs, often in company with "Peeps", and alighted freely on the mud-flats. They uttered a strange guttural note when flying.

Aug. 1. Shot four, one of which was actually so fat that it could hardly fly.

" 7. Three or four individuals flying in nearly every one of the numerous flocks of "Peeps" and Aeg.semipalmata that passed through the marsh to-day. These Sandpipers (T.maculata) decoy readily. I have not seen them in flocks as yet. One that alighted among my decoys was so tame that I walked to within ten feet of ~~him~~.it.

" 25. Unusually numerous, flying for the most part singly or in pairs although one flock of eight or ten was seen. ~~Sa~~

" 28. Saw a flock of ten on the marsh to-day.

1872.

July 21. Saw one.

Aug. 8. A considerable flight, certainly more than I have ever seen before in one day. Hot with light south wind.

Tringa maculata.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1872.

(Aug. 9). Another heavy flight, this species only second in number to Totanus flavipes, of which hundreds passed. Clear and one of the hottest days of the season; dead calm most of the time.

" 15. A moderate flight, occasionally good-sized flocks being seen.

Tringa bonapartei.

1880.

Maine (Lake Urbagog).

Sept.12. Shot an adult male coming to fall decoys; it was feeding in a muddy [illegible] at the mouth of [illegible].

" 16. Shot an adult female which was feeding on a muddy shore near the outlet. It was alone. Very, very fat.

Tringa bonapartei.

1871.
Sept. 9. Three o four seen on Ipswich Beach.

1875.
Aug. 17. Shot an adult on Long Island, Boston Harbor. Its zip-, zip is unique and unmistakable.

Sept.22. Shot one on the shore of Hummock Pond(fresh water) (Nantucket).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. 31. Shot one in a flock of Sandlings and Least Sandpipers. Its motions resembled those of the Least Sandpiper. It was on the beach.

1870.
Aug. 26. Took one; it is apparently a rare species here.

1871.

Aug. 8. Saw three.

" 9. Several in company with "Peeps".

" 10. Several single birds.

" 25. About a dozen seen.

1872.

Aug. 12. One shot.

" 15. Saw a flock comprising as many as seven or eight birds, all of this species.

Tringa bairdi.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1874.

Sept. 1. Shot one on the muddy bank of the River. It rose at the report of the gun, uttering a single mellow tweet and flying a short distance dropped dead. I noticed nothing peculiar in its actions except that it was rather faster than most Tringae.

1880.

Sept 4. Several Sandpipers accompanied by two Aegialitis semipalmata on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge River this evening. They moved about like "Peeps" but looked decidedly larger. Their breasts appeared striped, and a few conversational twitters which they kept up sounded unfamiliar. While I was trying to make out what they were the flock rose; I shot into them but only killed one bird which proved to be a Baird's Sandpiper. It was badly shot and so fat that it could not be skinned. I am positive that its companions (six in number) were all of the same species.

" 5. Shot two which were feeding in company with an Ereunetes pusillus on a bar at the mouth of the Cambridge. They were undoubtedly the same birds seen here last night. They were very tame and on the wing looked scarcely larger than Least Sandpipers. When they spread their wings, however, the difference in size was at once apparent. Their flight was swift, erratic, in every way identical with that of other small waders. Both were exceedingly fat.

Tringa bairdi.

1881.
Aug. 11. Gordon Plumber gave me an adult male in the flesh; he shot it in a flock of Peeps on Plum Island, Mass.

Tringa minatilla.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

July 16. Three.

" 17. Shot fifteen on the Charles River marshes. Flight very swift and irregular. Call note a mellow tweet.

1870.

Sept.21. A large flock of Peeps on Charles River.

1871.

May 13. A flock of about thirty on Charles River.

May 19. Large numbers on the Charles River marshes, for the most part scattered about singly, although I saw one flock of a dozen or more; they lay close in the long green grass like Snipe.

" 28. Still abundant.

1875.

May 22. Large flocks on the Charles River marshes, Cambridge.

Aug. 24. Shot one on Fresh Pond. It was in company with Ereunetes.

Sept. 6. Shot one on the mud-flats of Fresh Pond.

June 1. A single bird in the Fresh Pond swamps on the brook near "Block" Island. Heard the calls of others passing over our place this evening, and have noted them several evenings previously.

Things essential.

1880.

Hatchbury Parade, Tues.

July 13. There.

" 17. Went Tattoos in 5th regiment after luncheon. Flight very crowd and turnabout. Well made a million laugh.

1880.

Aug. 6. A letter read of tears on Theatre Royal.

1881.

Jan. 10. A final of [illegible] Tabrid on Theatre Royal.

Feb. 12. Large numbers on the Theatre Royal [illegible], for his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], although I was one from of a [illegible] [illegible]. Does Ian [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Lake Ridge.

" 26. Great [illegible].

1882.

Mar. 24. Large flocks in 3-5 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Aug. 24. Went out of Fire Pool. At the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Sept. 6. Went out on L's [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Dec. 1. Flight [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] "Ticket [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Tringa minutilla.

188[illegible].

Maine (Lake [illegible]).

Sept. 5. Three or four [illegible] with Ereunetes [illegible] Sargent's Cove.

Tringa minutilla.

1870.
July 11. Saw several large flocks (Ipswich, Mass.).

1875.

Sept. 2. Of seventy five peeps shot on the hills of Long Island, Boston Mass. only two were of this species, all the others being Ereunetes. (See notes on Ereunetes under this date and August 26, 1875).

" 21. Two shot among Ereunetes (Nantucket).

1876.

May 8. Numbers with Ereunetes (Chatham, Mass.).

" 15. Of twenty Peeps shot to-day the majority were of this species (Chatham, Mass.).

" 16. Large numbers come in a little after sunset, to spend the night on a gravelly flat behind the sandhill (Chatham, Mass.).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. 19. Abundant but less so than E. pusillus.

1870.
Aug. 19-31. Common, associating with E. pusillus in small flocks.

1871.

Aug. 7. A heavy flight of this species indiscriminately mingled with Ereunetes and Aegialites semipalmata. About five hundred of all three species combined passed.

" 14. Large flocks of this species and Ereunetes frequently perch in long rows on the top-most rail of a fence that borders the marsh.

" 20. An extraordinary flight of these and Ereunetes

" 21. Another heavy flight.

" 22. Thousands of "Peeps" passed through the marsh, many flocks containing upwards of a hundred birds. Upon shooting into several large flocks I found the present species in the proportion of about one to every ten Ereunetes pusillus. Two weeks ago it was just the reverse.

" 25. Thousands of "Peeps", chiefly Ereunetes but many of this species, have passed within the last three days.

1872. Three July 21; "good numbers", July 22; some, July 23; heavy flight, July 26; some, August 14. No detailed notes.

Tringa alpina americana.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.
Oct. 12. Saw five and shot two on the Charles River marshes.

In my diary entry for October 12, 1867 I say that I "shot 2 Bonaparte's Sandpipers" in the Brighton marshes making no mention of any other Limicolæ seen a single "peep", which I saw. The above type written note must therefore have been referred to the ~~above~~ species when it was copied from my diary in 1881 or 1882. I see that I also changed, apparently at the same time, an entry in my larger note for 1867 relating to the same birds, inserting the name "Red-backed" above "Bonaparte's" Sandpiper. I must have had good reasons for doing this but just what they were ~~had~~ have been forgotten. (W. B. March 1903)

Tringa alpina americana.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1876.
Oct. 6. One shot by N.C.Brown on Lake Umbagog.

1883.
Oct. 20. Shot [illegible] male at the mouth of Paulsen's Brook where it was feeding in company with a Solitary Sandpiper. It was very tame, not fat. Four others soon flying over the marshes.

Tringa alpina americana.

1871.
Oct. 18. Several on the salt marshes, ~~and the first I ever saw alive.~~ Note a mellow tweet, very like that of the Peep (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

1876.
May 6. Fourteen sitting on a small grasy Island in the Bay at Chatham, Mass. Killed them all in a few shots. They were in adult plumage; I recognized them before we got within range by their conspicuously long bills. They stood very erect, but when feeding skulked along in a crouching posture like most small waders. They uttered a distinct rolling whistle unlike that of any wader of my acquaintance. A wing broken one when seized uttered this cry continuously, and so loudly that it sounded almost like a shriek. None were very fat.

Ereunetes pusillus.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1874.

Oct. 5. Shot one on the Fresh Pond meadows.

1875.

Aug. 4. Shot six from a flock of over one hundred on the mud-flats in Cambridge Nook, Fresh Pond.

Sept. 6. Shot one on the mud-flats in Fresh Pond.

Ereunetes pusillus.

Maine (Lake Unbagog).

1873.
July 20. Saw three, identification positive.

1880.

Sept. 5. This species constituted the greater portion of a flock of about twenty-five small waders, feeding on a mud-bar in Sargent's Cove.

" 12. Eighteen in company with two Tringa minutilla on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge. They were surprisingly tame allowing us to paddle the canoe within ten feet of them. They fed chiefly in the shallow water, thrusting their heads down to the surface and bringing up masses of weed from which they picked small particles of food. Occasionally they bored the soft mud like Snipe, thrusting their bills down to the very base. I find that most of the Tringae do this and perhaps all the Scolopacidae. With the present species the motion differs slightly from that of the Snipe, being less rapid and decided while the bill is often worked up and down in the same spot. At least one individual in one flock of "Peeps" is pretty sure to be minus a leg; there was one such unfortunate in this flock, but although only the stump of his leg was left he managed to get along very well, hopping nimbly about on the sound member.

" 14. Large numbers on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge.

" 15. An immense flock feeding on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge.

" 18. A flock on the bar at the mouth of the Cambridge River in company with Ring-necks.

Ereunetes pusillus.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.

Aug. 17. Shot the first to-day. After this they were more numerous than the Least Sandpipers. They frequented the beach and Eel Pond about equally. Their habits are similar to those of the Least Sandpiper but their notes very different, being harsher and lower in tone. They are very quarrelsome chasing one another along the water's edge and uttering a twittering chatter different from the usual call-note.

1871.

July 26. A moderate flight.

Aug. 7. A very heavy flight of this species, Tringa minutilla and Aegialites semipalmata indiscriminately mingled.

" 20. An extraordinary flight of these and Least Sandpipers, several flocks containing at least one hundred birds.

" 21. A heavy flight lasting through the forenoon. Cloudy with rain from the south-west.

" 22. An extraordinary flight of "Peeps" all the afternoon, pany flocks containing upwards of one hundred birds, flock succeeding flock in rapid succession. Upon shooting into several flocks at random I found the two species (this and Tringa minutilla) in the proportion of nine Ereunetes to one Tringa minutilla. Two weeks ago it was just the reverse.

" 25. The flights of "Peeps" chiefly of this species during the past three or four days have been simply extraordinary. Often thousands have passed through the marsh in the course of a few hours.

" 26. Peeps (chiefly of this species) passing to-day in even greater numbers than before. At times they came literally in clouds and I found it impossible to count or even estimate their numbers. The larger flocks were nearly always led by a dozen or more Aegialites semipalmatus.

" 28. Only a few insignificant flocks of "Peeps" were seen to-day.

" 29. Less than a half a dozen "Peeps", all single birds, seen today.

Sept. 1. Five or six flocks passed to-day.

Aug 30. Saw perhaps four or five single birds.

1872. Not especially distinguished, or at least mentioned in my notes, but doubtless well represented in the heavy flights of "Peeps" that occurred July 22 and 26.

Ereunetes pusillus.

1874.

July 1. Saw three on the shores of the harbor (Nantucket).

1875.

Aug. 17. Nearly all the small Sandpipers in the immense flocks which I saw at Long Island, Boston Harbor, to-day, were of this species. The difference between its notes and those of the Least Sandpiper is perfectly tangible. The ordinary note of the Least Sandpiper in a mellow tweet, tweet while Ereunetes utters a hoarse pep-pep, krep-krep almost like that of Tringa maculata The querulous chatter heard from a flock while feeding is, I think, produced wholly by Ereuneted

" 26. Large flocks feeding in the sheep pastures on the sides and tops of the hills on Long Island, Boston Harbor. As the tidenrose they were continually ~~arising~~ arriving from the marshes and shores, alighting on the turf often among herds of sheep, cows, etc., until the upper portion of the Island was alive with them. Some of the flocks contained at least a hundred birds while single ones were scattered about everywhere. Those in the rear of the flock kept continually flying and dropping in front of their companions. Thus the flock made rapid progress down the hillside. Upon reaching the bottom they would rise, and after a few wheels, alight again on the summit. As the flock was advancing towards me their white breasts gleamed like animated snow-flakes on the emerald turf. Their motions were unusually nimble for they were catching grasshoppers, with which their stomachs were crammed.

Sept. 2. Immense numbers again fee ding on the hills of Long Island, Boston Harbor. Of seventy-five Peeps which we killed seventy-three were of this species and only two Tringa minutilla.

" 21. Abundant, (Nantucket).

1876.

May 7. Shot one from a small flock and saw several others (Chatham, Mass.).

" 8 A dozen or more flocks (Chatham, Mass.)

" 15. A few in company with the much more numerous Least Sandpipers. (Chatham, Mass.

Calidris arenaria.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1875.
Sept. 6. One on a mud-flat in Fresh Pond.

Calidris arenaria.

Maine (Lake Urbagog).

1873.

Sept.13. One received to-day which was shot on Richardson Lake yesterday.

1874.

Aug. 13. A single bird shot by Barstow on the bank of the river just below the house.

Sept.17. Saw two near the Outlet. A heavy northeast storm gathering.

1880.

Sept. 9. Four shot from a flock of eight feeding on a sand bar at the Outlet. They kept along the water's edge following the retreating waves as they do on the sea beaches.

" 16. Actually abundant in small flocks along the sandy beach of the lake near the Outlet.

Calidris arenaria.

1871.
Sept. 9. Multitudes on the beaches, probably seven hundred or eight hundred being seen in all (Ipswich).

1875.

Sept.21. Abundant on the beaches. The gunners call it "Presque", probably from its note. (Nantucket).

" 24. On the sea beach off Coatue Point , Nantucket, found this species in countless numbers. A long unbroken line of them extended along the water's edge in both directions, literally as far as the eye could reach. They were easily approached and came readily to the call of my peep whistle.

" 25. Abundant both on the beaches and on the sandy shores of Hummock Pond; I killed nine at one shot. (Nantucket).

1876.

May 6. A large flock (Chatham,Mass.).

" 16. Swarms feeding on the extreme point of Monomoy Island (Chatham, Mass.).

" 17. Very abundant to-day on Monomoy Island, barely five per cent were in breeding plumage, although many showed more or less red feathers mixed with the grey ones on the breast. (Chatham, Mass.).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. -- Saw the first August 18. A few days later they became numerous frequenting the beach in large flocks. I saw none on the Eel Pond.

1871.

Aug. 2. Several on the beach.

" 12. A large flock on the beach.

" 23. A flock on the beach following up every receeding form, and feeding in a close body with heads down.

1872. Not mentioned, but of course observed.

Limosa fœdoa.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. 27. Saw one shot on the Eel Pond marsh. Its flight was slow and heavy, and on the wing it looked like a Green Heron.

Totanus melanoleuca.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Sept.15. One, near Fresh Pond.

Oct. 10. Two.

1870.

Mar. 30. Six in a fresh water meadow at Bewtonville (Maynard).

Oct. 21. One, the last (Fresh Pond).

1871.

Apr. 29. One (Concord).

1875.

Aug. 30. Heard one flying over Fresh Pond.

Sept. 7. One on the mud-flats in Glacialis Pond.

Oct. 13. One at Great Meadows, Concord.

1876.

May 2. Shot two males in full breeding plumage on Great Meadows, Concord. They were feeding on the edge of a pool and allowed me to approach within thirty yards although I had absolutely no cover.

Totanus melanoleucus.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1874.
Sept.17. At the Peaks of the Diamond River one of these birds passed overhead, flying high above the woods, and calling loudly.

1886.

May 31. One circling about near the house whistling loudly.

Sept. 5. One feeding in company with four Totanus flavipes.

" 13. Up to this time I have seen only one. The hunters say that they do not appear in any numbers till late in October. Sometime after the lake is frozen they pass over it in immense numbers. Such a flight occurred last year, great flocks passing at intervals during the whole day. One observer assured me that he saw at least a thousand.

" 16. A flock of four alighted in the shallow water near the Outlet. They were very tame and I killed them all.

1882.
Oct.8-22 One or two seen daily. Last observed October 17.

1883.
Oct. 17. Shot one on the meadow.

Totanus melanoleucus.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.

Aug. Saw the first August 16. By September 1 they became numerous. They associated with T. flavipes but were much shyer and did not decoy as well. The gunners here call them "Winter Yellow-legs".

1869.

Aug. 21-28 Found sparingly during this time.

1870.

Aug. 13-31. Common.

1871.

Aug. 8. One, the first.

" 11. Three, this morning.

" 25. Two or three in nearly every flock of Totanus flavipes. They always took the lead and by their superios shyness often saved the lives of their smaller comrades. They decoyed well, however, provided I took care to keep closely hidden.

" 26. Among some twenty or thirty Yellow-legs that passed to-day the two species for the first time occurred in about equal numbers. One flock (six birds) composed wholly of T. melanolauca was seen.

1872. One, July 23; two flocks, August 6; a few single birds August 9; do. on the 11th; do. on the 15th. No detailed notes in the records for this year.

Totanus flavipes.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

May 3. Saw three on the edge of the pond at the foot of Vassal Lane. They were stalking about in the grass, every now and then stopping and jerking their heads backward, and occasionally walking into the water so deep that they almost had to swim. They were tame and I watched them for some time, standing within a few yards of them. When I finally started them they flew only about fifty yards and alighted again.

Sept.15. One near Fresh Pond.

1875.

Aug. 4. One on the mud-flats in Cambridge Nook, Fresh Pond.

" 24. Shot one in a marshy pool at the head of Vassal Lane.

Sept. 7. Twon on the mud-flats in Glacialis Pond.

Totanus flavipes.

Maine (Lake Chebogog).

1873.
July 20. Saw three on the Cambridge River marshes.

1874.

Aug. 18. Saw some all flocks at the mouth of Cambridge River.

" 27. A flock of four feeding on the mud in Black Island Cove.

1880.

Sept. 2. Shot two.

" 3. One flying over the meadows and whistling, after dark.

" 13. Two on the mud-flats near the mouth of the Cambridge. They were very tame and I watched their motions for sometime, standing within ten yards of me. They probed the mud very like Snipe, and tilted the rear and fore-part of the body in a peculiar, automaton-like way.

Totanus flavipes.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1871.

(Aug.24) came in at daylight. I killed eight Yellow-legs and the Micropalama by firing both barrels into the flock. The Totanus flavipes were nearly all young--not more than one adult in a dozen certainly--and all are now very fat whereas those killed earlier in the season were seldom in good condition for the table.

" 25. Next to that of August 10 decidedly the heaviest flight of the season, beginning at daybreak and lasting without intermission until dark. Not as many birds passed as on the 10th but as they came in small flocks and decoyed well many more were killed. The day was clear with a light breeze from the south-west. It was the hottest day of the summer.

" 26. Cloudy, with driving mist and rain; wind south-east. A small flight of large birds, less than twenty of the present species being seen. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers passed by thousands, however.

1872.

July 24. Two small flocks, the first seen, passed through the marsh this afternoon. Cloudy in morning; afternoon clear . Wind east all day.

Aug. 2. A moderate flight, five or six flocks being seen.

" 6. A small flight of stragglers, and two large flocks.

" 7. A heavy flight all the afternoon. Clear and warm, wind south-east.

" 8. One of the heaviest and steadiest flights that I have ever seen beginning at daylight, stopping at 9 A.M., beginning again at 2 P.M and lasting until dark. Very warm with light south wind.

" 9. A very heavy flight began at daylight and continued steadily all day, slacking somewhat, however, in the afternoon. Clear, a dead calm, and the hottest day of the season, the thermometer rising to 90° (100° at Boston). (The following day August 10 clear with strong south wind and no flight).

" 11. The heaviest flight of the season, hundreds of birds passing through the marsh. Foggy with light south-east wind.

" 15. A steady and moderately heavy flight began at 2 P.M. and lasted until dark. Morning cloudy and misty, afternoon clear with strong s outh-east wind.

Totanus flavipes when wounded frequently dives. It is the only Wader here which does this except Tringoides. It also screams loudly and continuously when suddenly seized.

" 19. A small flight.

Totanus flavipes.

1875.
Sept.29. Three on Coatue Point,Nantucket.

1876.

May 7. Three (Chatham, Mass.).

" 15. A large flock (Chatham, Mass.).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. The first shot August 15. Afterwards common until September 1, when T.melanoleuca took their place. Very tame, decoying well. When coming over the stools they usually sail, with their long, pointed wings bent downward. When wounded slightly they would pretend to be unhurt tilting their bodies and whistling loudly. If they fell wounde d into the water they would at once paddle to the shore and often hide so closely that it was difficult to find them.

1869.
Aug.19-31. Seen daily during this time but diminishing rapidly in numbers toward the close of August. They flew in the greatest numbers when the wind blew strong from the south. On still, clear days only stragglers were seen.

1871.

July 26. A decided flight, at least forty birds passing. Most of them shot were adults, but one was a Juv. and very tame.

Aug. 1. Nearly all now passing are young birds, but I have not seen a single young Macrorhampheus yet.

" 5. A heavy flight all day; a flock of at least thirty seen. Weather clear; wind south shifting to south-east in the afternoon.

" 10. By far the heaviest flight thus far, beginning at 6.A.M. and ceasing entirely about noon. At least five hundred of this species passedz. As many as thirty or forty being sometimes seen in one flock. These large flocks paid little attention to the decoys, other than by flying over them down wind in loose bodies, or in a broad extended front, as they hurried through the marsh. On this account but few, comparatively, were killed. This has probably been the flight of the season although the day would seem to have been in every way unfavorable (a flight of Waders before a wind is certainly exceptional).

" 24. Heavy rain from the south-west during the night and ceasing at 5 A.M. About twenty Yellow-legs accompanied by a ~~Micrelama~~ Micropalama and at least fifty "peeps"

Totanus flavipes.

1875.

Aug. 17. Two large flocks on Long Island, Boston Harbor.

Sept. 2. One on Long Island, Boston Harbor.

" 22. One on the shore of Hummock Pond)Nantucket).

Rhyacophilus solitarius.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.
Sept.21. One flying.

1869.
May 23. One.

1871.

May 15. One.

Oct. 4. Three in the pond-hole near Fairhaven Bay, Concord.

1875.

May 14. Shot one on Rock Meadow, Belmont.

" 17. Three on Rock Meadow, Belmont.

Aug. 9. One in the Fresh Pond swamps—the first.

" 30. Five feeding in the marshy pool at the head of Vassal Lane. All were young birds in thin flesh.

Sept. 7. One in the Fresh Pond swamps.

1876.
May 11. General arrival (Cambridge).

Rhyacophilus solitarius.

1873.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

July 20. Saw one alight on the top of a stump fifteen feet high.

Aug. 2. Found them abundant on the Magalloway and Androscoggin a dozen ofte starting at once from the shore. As the steamer sped and driving them on before, the air became literally full of them.

" " Extremely numerous on the Androscoggin and Magalloway Rivers; sometimes upwards of a hundred could be seen in one mile.

" 23. Shot one on Cambridge River about two miles above the dam.

" " They are not nearly as numerous as they were in July.

Sept. 3. They are to-day all gone; I saw the last August 20.

" 8. Although this bird seems to have left Lake Umbagog, I found it numerous to-day around the shores of Richardson Lake.

" 18. Heard one to-day.

" 22. Saw one on Cambridge River.

1874.

July 24. Saw one at Bryant's Pond.

1879.

May 29. A single bird of one pair on B Meadows. The latter (I think) were unquestionably mated, and may breed there; they were seen in the same place both going and returning.

1880.

May 20. Literally in swarms on B Meadows. As we drove they kept collecting till as many as six or eight often sat together. In the still air their wings rustled audibly as they flew. Flight eccentric; when high in air they resemble Wilson's Snipe, and like that bird, probe the mud when feeding.

"

" 22. A few on B Meadows, but not nearly as many as were seen there on the 20th.

Sept. 2. Abundant along the river bank. They are the tameest waders I know. There were five to-day, scattered along the little creek a yard or two apart, and I flushed and killed them all one by one; they would almost allow me to catch them and the report of a gun fired within ten yards failed to even startle them.

" 4.

Rhyacophilus solitarius.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

(Sept.4) Numerous along the muddy banks of the Cambridge near its mouth.

" 9. Near the entrance to Leonard's Pond one of these Sandpipers, feeding on the river bank, suddenly uttered a loud outcry and started off across the river closely pursued by a Pigeon Hawk. The Hawk gained rapidly and was about to seize its victim when the latter dropped, as if shot, into the water. The Hawk shooting past alighted on a stump on the bank beyond. The Sandpiper did not attempt to dive but swam quickly ashore and landing, sat stood crouching under an overhanging part of the bank.

" 18. Three on the banks of Cambridge River.

1882.
Oct.8-22. One shot October 8.

1880.
Sept.12. Still numerous. They are delicate eatable birds the flesh tasting most like that of the Snipe.

Rhyacophilus solitarius.

1866.
Aug. 30. Saw three along the course of a brook (West Amesbury Mass.).

1867.
Oct. 7. A pair in edge of a fresh water pong (Plymouth,Mass).

1870.
Aug. 2. Saw one descend from a great height and alight on a log on the shore of Profile Lake,N. . It immediately went fast asleep and remained motionless for several hours.

1869.
July & Aug. Upon arriving at the Glen House, July 20, I found three of these Sandpipers on the neighboring mill-pond. I supposed that they had either eggs or young but on shooting and dissecting them found that they had not apparently bred this year. The next day several more had taken their places, and these being killed others appeared a few days later; thus they continued to arrive during my stay and I was convinced that they were already migrating. When driven from the mill-pond they often flew directly into the forest where they would alight on some fallen log and remain until all became quiet again. (Glen House,N.H.).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. Shot the first August 17; afterwards they were seen daily, usually in pairs, on the Eel Pond marshes (brackish).

1871.
Sept. 1. A single record for this season only although I find a note in my diary of one shot on the Eel Pond August 8.

1872.

Aug. 9. One shot on the Eel Pond (Recorded in my pocker ~~diary~~ diary.

" 20. " " " " " " (" " " " diary).

Totanus semipalmatus.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Sept. 2. Mr.King tells me that Mr.Tor all of Bethel has a Willet that he killed at Umbagog a few years since.

Totanus semipalmatus.

1876.

May 6. Three (Chatham, Mass.).

" 15. An adult female shot at Chatham. The gunners say that this bird used to breed abundantly here on Monomoy Island (Chatham, Mass.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1866.
Aug. 17. Shot one, which I did not preserve.

1871.

Aug. 11. A single young bird came to the decoys readily and was shot.

" 17. One came to the decoys and was shot.

1872.
Aug. 13. A young bird shot on the Eel Pond marsh.

Machetes pugnax.

1874.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Sept. 8. Near the outlet of Cupsuptic River a strange-looking bird passed me within about sixty yards, flying with slow, easy wing-flaps like a Hawk. I shot at it, and it went down on a long incline, falling dead. Upon picking it up, I found it to be a Ruff. It was perfectly silent. It proved to be old, in good flesh but literally alive with parasites.

Actiturus bartramius.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Apr. 30. Saw one. It flew in a singular manner, now quivering its wings like a Spotted Sandpiper, now sailing like a small Hawk. It alighted in a meadow and also on ploughed ground, but it was too shy to be shot (Belmont).

May 1. Shot a female, probably the one seen yesterday.

1869.

Apr. 20. Heard one whistle just at dusk.

1870.

May 6. Shot one, early this morning, in an apple orchard near Fresh Pond. It was quite shy and appeared perfectly at home among the trees, flying through the branches without the slightest difficulty.

1871.

Apr. 26. One in a pasture at Concord. It was very shy and active but I finally succeeded in shooting it; it proved a female, with the ovarius so much developed that the first egg would have probably been deposited within a week or ten days.

1875.

Aug.24. I hear them passing over our place nearly every morning.

Actiturus bartramius.

1872.
June 1. Saw a apir from the car window (New Gloucester, Maine.).

1875.

Aug. 17. A few on the bare pastures on Long Island, Boston Harbor.

Sept.22. While driving across one of the extensive commons on Nantucket I discovered an Upland Plover standing motionless within fifteen yards of the wagon. I stopped the horse when it did not fly but skulked off slowly through the grass and once squatted closely for an instant. It evidently imagined itself unseen. I finally shot it sitting; it was so fat that I could not preserve the skin.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.

Aug. From August 17-30 they were seen frequently, passing southward in small companies (rarely more than five or six) at a height of several hundred yards. On moonlight nights I often heard their mellow call-notes as late as 11 P.M.

1869.
Aug.24-30. Seen almost daily, passing over; but few alighted on the marsh. Throughout clear moonlight nights their call-notes could be heard at almost any hour.

1871.

Aug. 1. Heard the first this evening about 11 P.M. flying overhead. It was a clear moonlight night.

" 6. One alighted on the Eel Pond marsh.

" 17. A steady flight for several hours early this morning, mostly of single birds passing over high in air.

" 25. A steady flight all day, the first for sometime. as usual these birds passed overhead, well up to.

1872. August 3, one; August 6, one; August 19, a very heavy flight early in the morning.

Tringites rufescens.

1871.
Sept.3. Two taken by H.W.Henshaw.

1875.

Aug. 26. Two in a flock of "Peeps", feeding on the edge of a fresh-water pool on Long Island, Boston Harbor. I shot one, when the other flew to the closely-cropped sheep pastures on the hill above. Here I chased it about for a long time without getting a shot. It invariably stood motionless in a very erect position until I began to approach when it would rise and after flying a hundred ~~rods~~ yards or more alight again. Its flight was swift and erratic; once or twice it rose to the height of one hundred feet or more and performed the most surprising evolutions in the air, finally darting in zig-zag lines to the earth with almost inconceivable rapidity. While flying past the fawn color of the under parts was conspicuous. It uttered continually while flying a single hoarse, short note very like that of Tringa maculata. The stomach of the one killed was crammed with grasshoppers.

Sept. 2. Picked up a dead one on the hills of Long Island Boston Harbor.

1871. Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

Aug. 22. A pair of birds which I took to be of this species flew about over the marsh uttering a mellow whistle entirely distinct from the rough, croaking note of Tringa maculata which they otherwise resembled.

" 25. Shot one. It came into the marsh in company with a Tringa maculata

" 28. A single bird came to the decoys and was shot.

1872. Not seen this year.

Tringoides macularius.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.

June 1. Found a nest with eggs containing partially developed young. The mother ran along the ground for some distance but did not imitate lameness or employ any other like art.

1868.

May 1. Saw one but they have probably been here for sometime

" 22. Found a nest with one egg.

July 13. About the pebbly shores of Fresh Pond in companies of two or three all old birds.

Aug. 8. Chiefly on the Charles River marshes now but a few still linger on the shores of Fresh Pond.

Sept.26. Saw one on Fresh Pond, but they are getting scarce.

Oct. 13. Saw one shot on Fresh Pond, the last.

1869.

Apr. 24. One.

May 1. One at Shermeans Pond, Waltham, upon being hard pressed by a Hawk (Accipiter cooperi) dove from on wing and disappeared beneath the surface when the Hawk returned to his perch. The pond was perfectly smooth, and the Sandpiper must have remained under at least half-a-minute. On returni ng to the surface it remained a few minutes sitting on the water, then with difficulty rose and flew to the shore.

1870.

Apr. 28. Seen at Newton (C.J.M).

May 3. One.

July 1. Found two nests on the Island both with nearly fresh eggs (Muskegat Island).

1871.

Apr. 26. One on the River at Concord.

May 2. Several.

Oct. 14. One (Fresh Pond).

1875.

May 8. Several at Concord.

Tringoides macularius.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(May 31) Nest with two eggs in Lexington. The female started directly under my feet, tumbling about for a moment, then, with dropping wings, tottering legs, and all the feathers of the rump erected in a curious manner, ran about twenty yards when she was joined by her mate, both standing motionless and silent watching me with evident apprehension.

Tringoides macularius.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1879.
June 17. Set C-4. Slightly [illegible]. Nest on small rocky island near Lake House; sunk in the ground [illegible] partially covered by an old drift wood. Female sitting; she glided away silently beneath the drift wood [illegible] wing. The male for sometime past has frequently [illegible] over the spot.

1880.

May 22. Shot one [illegible]

" 28. Nest [illegible] last year.

" 31. Set D-4. Fresh—on ground on small island within six feet of the spot where nest was taken last year; nest in deep hollow evidently scraped by the bird; female sitting; she permitted me to approach within a few feet, then fluttered off spreading her wings, tumbling about on the ground [illegible] before.

June 9. Set [illegible]-4. Fresh—on ground under drooping branch of alder; female rose [illegible] and flew off in silence. [illegible] D-4 [illegible]

Sept. [illegible]. A few still linger [illegible]; but they are far outnumbered by the Solitary Sandpipers.

" 15. [illegible] river to-day.

188[illegible].
Oct. 18. Shot one.

Tringoides macularius.

1868.
Aug. 5. Saw one on a small stream among the Franconia Mts. (Profile House, N.H.).

1869.
July & Aug. Found it quite common, breeding, at the foot of Mt.Washington, and discovered a brood of young scarcely a week old, on the shore of a mill pond in that vicinity. (Glen House,N.H.).

1870.
July 28. As far as edge of clearings never on either side of the lakes in the notch (Profile House,N.H.).

1874.
July 12. Numerous on Appledore Island, Isles of Shoals, where the young were running about over the hilly pastures.

1875.
July 20. Breeding abundantly on the Green Islands, near Portland, Maine .

1876.
May 7. A number (Chatham, Mass.).

Numenius longirostris.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1871.

Aug. 25. Early this morning a large Curlew, which I took for a Sickle-bill, passed over the marsh, high up, uttering a loud shrieking note at frequent intervals.

1872.

Aug. 12. One passed through the Eel Pond marsh this morning.

" 17. One passed through the Eel Pond marsh this morning flying in company with a Hudsonian Curlew.

Numenius hudsonicus.

1875.

Aug. 17. Saw one on Long Island, Boston Harbor.

Sept.22. Two near Smith's Point rose out of the grass within twenty yards of our wagon. Uttering a rolling whistle of five or six notes. Their flight is rather slow and very like that of Actiturus They are easily decoyed by an imitation of their whistle (Nantucket).

" 25. Near Smith's Point, Nantucket, one started from among some moss and beach grass on a sand flat, and alighted again within twenty yards of our wagon, squatted in precisely the manner of a Snipe.

" 27. While driving across a sandy tract, sparsely covered with wiry grass I discovered one of these Curlews standing motionless within thirty yards. Stopping the horse I shot it where it stood. Like the one killed the other day it was so fat that I could not preserve the skin. (Nantucket).

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1871.

Sept. 2. Found two on the pebbly portion of the sea wall that divides the marsh from the beach. At first they were very tame but after one had been shot the survivor kept out of range flying about in a great circle and uttering a whistle of three or four mellow notes. Finally it ~~rose~~ ran with great swiftness to the top of a sandy knoll where it stood in an upright position for several minutes.

1872.

Aug. 6. Three flocks passing southward over the ocean.

" 9. One passed over the Eel Pond.

" 17. One passed over the marsh flying in company with Numenius longirostris.

Numenius borealis.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Sept.11 A Curlew on the muddy margin of the lower pond in the meadow. It made several short flights and uttered a note absolutely different from that of N.hudsonicus. This with its smaller size served to identify it satisfactorily.

Phalaropus fulicarius.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Sept.15. Killed three adult males and one immature female on the bar at the mouth of the River. They were feeding along the water's edge in company with a Hyperborean Phalarope and were very tame and very interesting. As they ran along the shore, sometimes wading knee-deep in the water, they constantly nodded their heads with a graceful Coot-like motion and alternately presented their beautiful marbled backs and snowy breasts, while the slender neck and head were never still. Their movements were exceedingly rapid and so erratic that they reminded me of ants. As my guide said: "they acted as if crazy". Occasionally one would take to the water and swim off a few yards turn over nearly on its back and plume itself precisely in the manner of the Little Auk. At length I fired at two together and killed both, one proving to be a Red Phalarope, the other a Hyperborean. I noticed no difference between them when alive. The two survivers rose at the shot and joined a flock of "Peeps", scaling about with them for a few moments and then alighting in the original place when I killed them both. These Phalaropes uttered a emphatic zip, zip, very like that of Tringa bonapartei. When flying they showed a narrow white bar on each wing and appeared nearly as white as Sandling. Their first flight was swift, erratic, and generally similar to that of the smaller Tringae. Irises dark hazel. Stomachs contained small mud worms.

Phalaropus hyperboreus.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1874.
Aug. 22. Between the outlet and the narrows, down the middle of the lake, I saw from the steamboat several of these Phalaropes. Their flight was very like that of the Sandling which they also resemble in general shape and color although they were appreciably smaller. They circled about over the water somewhat in the manner of Gulls, alighting frequently although the wind was blowing a gale and the waves rolling high. One, passing within a few yards of the boat, turned sharply upwards after a small moth which it chased eagerly for some distance but did not succeed in catching.

1880.
Sept.15. Shot a young female in fall plumage on the bar at the mouth of Cambridge River; it was feeding in company with three Red Phalaropes (see note on this species for for observations on habits etc.).

1881.

May 20. Shot two adult males in full breeding plumage on Lake Umbagog near the mouth of Sundy Cove about two hundred yards from shore where they were swimming in very deep water. They were evidently feeding for they advanced over the surface in zog-zag lines and, after progressing a few rods took wing and flew back to cover the ground over again. They were very tame, allowing me to paddle within fifteen yards of them. Their motions were exceedingly graceful and they reminded me of Gallinules. The head bobs with each stroke of the feet but it bobs gracefully, while the slender neck is extended quickly on either side as the delicate bills skim the surface. Their activity surpasses that of any bird with which I am acquainted. Their flight is precisely like that of Tringae. Irides dark hazel, bill black, tarsi and feet dark blue. Good flesh but not fat; their stomachs filled with some half-digested and unrecognizable, soft animal food. A northeasterly storm has prevailed for the last four or five days.

Steganopus wilsoni.

Maine (Lake Embagog).

1873.
Aug. 28. A flock of four large Phalaropes which I took to be this species came flying in from the lake and flying with exceeding swiftness, $wisting and doubling like Snipe, alighted for a moment in the middle of Cambridge River near its mouth.

1881.
May 20. A Phalarope swimming among some drift wood near the Middle dam permitted me to get so near that I recognized it as an adult female of this species. It finally rose and flew swiftly off over the lake, the chestnut marking on the wings and back showing conspicuously.

Steganopus wilsoni.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1870.
Aug. 24. Saw what I took to be at the time, a Hyperborean Phalarope, but which I now believe was a Wilson's Phalarope, on the Eel Pond. It was very tame allowing me to approach within a few yards as it alternately waded and swam about in the shallow water near the shore. It was about sunset, and I had no gun with me.

1872.
Aug. 15. Shot a single bird, an adult, I think, in gray winter plumage (the specimen is in my collection). It came to the decoys with a large flock of "Peeps" flying very swiftly like a Sandpiper. My attention was particularly attracted to it by its short, harsh cry which sounded to my ear not unlike the scaipe of Gallinago wilsoni.

Rallus crepitans.

1875.
May -- One captured alive on a vessel off Boston Harbor May --.

1881.
Nov. 10. As I was crossing the cause way at Philips Beach a bird started from the bank and skipped over the floating vegetation into a dense bed of tall reeds; it was either this species or a Gallinule.

Rallus virginianus.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Apr. 18. Shot a female.

" 29. One in the Brickyard Swamp making a variety of odd sounds, one a harsh chatter, another a song precisely like that of the Spotted Sandpiper, but in a lower key. I shot the bird and found it to be a female.

May 2. Shot two males and a female in the Brickyard Swamp. They skulked through the bushes, under cover of the meadow tussocks, and were difficult to flush. Their song resembles the syllables ke-ke-ke-ke-ke-ke-ke-ke-ke, beginning slowly, running together at the end, and uttered in a snarling tone.

" 23. A female permitted me to approach within a few feet, then rose without the slightest difficulty and with legs drawn up flew some distance nearly as swiftly as a Snipe.

" 25. Saw one building.

June 2. Found several nests to-day. The first which was built of dry grass and placed in the top of a tussock, contained six fresh eggs. The second was a bulky affair about fifteen inches high and raised between the stems of some alder bushes; it contained nine fresh eggs. The old birds skulked silently away from both of them, but the female of a third which contained nine eggs nearly hatched suffered herself to be touched before she would move, and afterwards came up within a few feet of me walking up the branches of some briar bushes and uttering shrill cries.

July 11. Male singing.

" 18. One started by my dog took a long flight with legs drawn up, flying with great swiftness and zig-zaging through the bushes almost exactly like a Snipe.

Sept. 25. Shot one and heard another sing.

Oct. 10. One.

1869.

May 5. Heard several in the Fresh Pond swamps.

" 29. Found an old bird followed by six young apparently several days old and covered entirely with black down.

1870

May 3. Heard numbers.

1871.

Apr. 19. Heard about a dozen all of which must have arrived last night as there were none in the swamps on the 17th.

Rallus virginianus.

1871.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(May 17) A female pursued, and finally caught, by my dogs absolutely refused to fly but repeatedly swam across a wide brook and when hard pressed, took to diving, remaining under water a minute or more at a time.

1872.

Apr. 17. Found one in a little isolated briar patch in a meadow. Three of us with three dogs , were actually unable to force it to take wing although several times we nearly caught it in our hands.

1874.

Sept.22. Swarming in the Fresh Pond swamps. At the report or a gun dozens cry ou t from all parts of these watery retreats.

Oct. 7. Have not seen one this fall although I have hunted the Fresh Pond marshes daily.

" 20. Shot two in a bushy swamp near the Fresh Pond crossing; they were unquestionably migrants as none have been seen in these swamps since August.

1875.

May 7. Near Block Island, and in the Brickyard Swamp Rails of both species were fairly swarming this evening. In one little meadow interspersed with thickets of bushes, there must have been dozens of each species and I frequently heard four or five calling at once. The Virginia Rail has only two notes that I am acquainted with. One which I think is the song of the male is a rasping note repeated a number of times in quick succession in a descending scale. It is indescribable and I can only compare it to a certain complaining sound made byv a hungry pig. The other is a shor t scream of alarm.

" 22. Several on Rock meadow, Belmont.

" 27. Searched the Fresh Pond swamps thoroughly but the only Rail seen was a single bird of this species. The meadows are unusually dry, a fact which probably accounts for the absence of these birds from their favorite haunts.

June 1. Started only one in the Fresh Pond swamps. It rose with ease drawing up its legs and flew nearly as fast as a Snipe.

" 10. In the Fresh Pondswamps I came upon a pair of Virginia Rails that evidently had a brood of young. Both old birds were very bold, approaching within ten feet and reiterating a single angry squeal resembling that of a startled pig. I could not find the young but upon withdrawing a short distance distinctly heard their feeble lisping as they called to one another or their parents; this cry was indistinguishable from that of the young Carolina Rails heard last season.

Rallus virginianus.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(July 28) Shot a young bird in that curious intermediate plumage common at this season.

Oct. 7. Nesbitt showed me one which he shot in the Fresh Pond swamps to-day, Our resident birds usually leave earlier and our migrants come later.

1876.
May 11. One (Fresh Pond swamps).

1879.
Apr. 26. One shot by Spelman in the Fresh Pond swamps.

1880.
May 5. One male (Belmont).

1881.
Sept.24. In the Fresh Pond swamps Spelman has seen numbers of these Rails lately, in moist but not wet thickets where we find Connecticut Warblers.

Rallus virginianus.

1880.

Maine (Lake Arbago[illegible]).

Sept. [illegible]. Shot a young bird midway between the first and autumnal stages. It rose from a bed of reeds near the mouth of Cambridge River.

Rallus virginianus.

1874.
Jan. 24. Captain Baxter tells me that they are wintering in numbers at Marston's Mills.

Porzana carolina.

1865.

Middlesex County, Mass.

June 10. Nest with six eggs (R.Deane).

Oct. 11. Watched one for sometime. It walked slowly along the margin of the water continually jerking its tail upward and once flapping its wings. When it came to any small inlet it usually waded across instead of following the shore.

1867.

June 4. Found an egg ready for laying in the body of the bird.

Oct. 22. Shot one in the branches of a low bush when it alighted after being flushed, balancing itself for sometime awkwadly, with partly spread wings, before it secured a firm footing.

" 26. Watched one for some time it walked easily over some floating vegetation, with its neck drawn in, jerking its tail at every step, and now and then stooping to pick up something. When I showed myself it did not appear startled although I was within ten yards of it.

1868.

Apr. 25. One singing in the Brickyard Swamp.

May 5. Saw a male in the act of singing; upon starting him he flew only a few rods and began to sing again.

" 7. One singing in the swamps. When flushed it flew a few feet and alighted, swimming across a broad ditch as gracefully as a Duck. The song of this bird is very deceptive seeming to come from a much greater distance th than it really does. The weather was damp and cloudy this evening and I heard at least a dozen birds singing

June 2 Found a nest containing nine eggs built in the top of a tussock.

" 3. Found a nest containing seven fresh eggs; it was raised in a clump of tall grass to the height of about twelve inches.

July 7. Heard the ke-ee, ke-ee of this bird to-day.

Sept. 7. Shot a number in the Fresh Pond swamps during a rain storm. Several of them started like Snipe, drawing up their legs, and after flying very swiftly for hundreds of yards twisting and doubling, pitched headlong into the grass. Others flew in a straight course with the legs extended bhind, the head and neck stretched out in front, looking very like small Ducks. The Virginia Rails acted in a similar manner.

Porzana carolina.

1[illegible].

Middlesex County, Mass.

June 10. [illegible]

Oct. 11. Watched one for sometime. It walked slowly along the margin of the water constantly jerking its tail upward and once flapping its wings. When it came to any small inlet it usually waded across instead of following the shore.

1[illegible].

[illegible]. Found an egg ready for laying in the body of the bird.

Oct. 22. Shot one in the branches of a low bush when it alighted after being flushed, balancing itself for sometime awkwardly, with partly spread wings, before it secured a firm footing.

[illegible]. Watched one for some time it walked easily over some floating vegetation, with its neck drawn in, jerking its tail at every step, and now and then stopping to pick up something. When I showed myself it did not appear startled although I was within ten yards of it.

[illegible].

[illegible]. One singing in the Brickyard Swamp.

[illegible]. Saw a male in the act of singing; upon startling him he flew out, a few rods and began to sing again.

[illegible]. One singing in the swamp. When flushed it flew a few feet and alighted, swimming across a broad ditch as gracefully as a Duck. The song of this bird is very deceptive seeming to come from a much greater distance than it really does. The weather was damp and cloudy this evening and I heard at least a dozen birds singing

[illegible]. Found a nest containing nine eggs built in the top of a tussock.

[illegible]. Found a nest containing seven fresh eggs; it was raised in a clump of tall grass to the height of about [illegible].

[illegible]. Heard the Ko-ee, Ko-ee of this bird to-day.

[illegible]. Shot a number in the Fresh Pond swamps during a rain storm. Several of them started like Snipe, drawing up their legs, and after flying very swiftly for hundreds of yards twisting and doubling, pitched headlong into the grass. Others flew in a straight course with the legs extended behind, the head and neck stretched out in front, looking very like small Ducks. The Virginia Rails acted in a similar manner.

Porzana carolina.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Sept.12) One feeding on a mall island, walking in a slow, pompous manner, moving its head like a Pigeon and jerking the tail rapidly.

Oct. 7. One.

" 10. "

1869.

May 5. Heard several.

" 29. Nest with thirteen nearly fresh eggs; in a tussock nearly surrounded by water.

1870.

May 3. Heard numbers in the swamps this evening. They have doubtless been here some time.

May. 24. One nest with seven fresh eggs, another with four; both birds left their nest on my approach as I found their eggs were warm.

June 13. Nest thirteen eggs, six fresh, remainder well advanced.

" 18. Nest with two eggs from which the young birds were struggling to escape; remainder of brood running about near the nest; parent no where to be seen.

Oct. 21. Shot an adult male which was so encased in fat he could hardly fly.

1871.

Apr. 6.? One heard in the swamps(By Deane and Carter).?

" 19. A male singing.

Oct. 16. Six seen.

1874.

June 24. A female in the Fresh Pond swamps with a large brood of young which were calling continuously for food in a harsh querulous voice. When the mother discovered me, she uttered a sharp cry which silenced them at once, although after a moment or two they began calling again. I shot one which was squatting on a floating lily-pad. It had a blood-red knob or protuberence on the ridge of the culmen near its base this shrunk away soon after death. The remaining young were led off by the mother into a thicket of briars where I could not follow them.

Sept.30. Shot five in the Fresh Pond swamps .

One feeding on a mail-island, walking in a slow, [illegible] manner, moving its head like a pigeon and jerking the tail rapidly.

Nest with thirteen nearly fresh eggs; in a tussock nearly surrounded by water.

Hoard numbers in the swamps this evening. They have do bitlas been here some time.

One nest with seven fresh eggs, another with four; both birds left their nest on my approach as I found their eggs were warm.

Nest thirteen eggs, six fresh, remainder well advanced.

Nest with two eggs from which the young birds were struggling to escape; remainder of brood running about near the nest; parent no where to be seen.

Shot an adult male which was so engaged in fat he [illegible].

One heard in the swamps(by Beebe and Carter).

" 10. A male singing.

Oct. 16. Six seen.

June 24. A female in the fresh Pond swamps with a large brood of young which were calling continuously for food in a harsh querulous voice. When the mother discovered the [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] close, although after a moment or two they began calling again. I shot two which [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible]. It had a blood-red knob or protuberance on the ridge of the culmen near its base this shrunk away soon after death. The remaining young were led off by the mother into a thicket of briars where I could not follow them.

Shot five in the fresh Pond swamps

Porzana carolina.

1874.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Oct. 7) Killed six in the Fresh Pond marshes. Most of these birds that we get now are evidently migrants from further north for their numbers vary greatly on different days. It is singular, however, that I have never seen them coming into the swamps while watching for ducks in the evening twilight, all the other common nocturnal birds being observed at such times.

" 7. When pursued by a dog this Rail often takes to the water and swims the deepest ditches.

" 13. While sitting on a tussock in the Fresh Pond marshes this evening watching day pass into night a Rail rose some distance off and came by me flying in the usual slow way with dangling legs; I had previously supposed that when rising in this manner they flew differently.

1875.

Apr. 22. Heard one singingv in the Fresh Pond marshes.

" 23. Three in the swamps this evening, one calling incessantly ka-e, kar-e, kar-e the others cackling.

May 7. Literally swarming in the swamps near the Fresh Pond crossing. In one lutte patch of meadow interspersed with with thickets, there must have been dozens, and I freq uently heard four or five calling at once. Here a succession of squealing notes given in a low tone and sounding not unlike those uttered by the muskrat in spring attracted my attention. Approaching cautiously and peering over a thick bush, I discovered a pair of Carolina Rails within a few yards of me. They were going through the ceremonies of their courtship. The female skulked coyly through the grass closely followed by the male, both birds twisting and doubling about in the little opening which was only a few yards square. Every now a d then the female would stop and allow the male to overtake her. Spreading his tail to the utmost, and elevating it nearly vertically he would strut around her with all the pomp of a turkey cock, uttering all the while the squealing above described. After a moment or two the female would become apparently tired of his attentions ans skulk off again, the male following closely as before. Where the water was too deep for wading she would swim, her attentive lover bobbing along gracefully in her wake. The song of this Rail is evidently the ka-e previously described. The bird also utters at least three other notes, a cackling cutter, cutter, cutter; a rapidly enunciated cry of eight or ten syllables in a descending scale, the notes so run together as to almost form a trill; and a single quick sharp kep used indifferently by both sexes and especially by the youngmales in autumn as a cry of alarm.

Killed six in the Fresh Pond marshes. Most of these birds that we get now are evidently transits from further north for their numbers very greatly on different days. It is singular, however, that I have never seen them coming into the swamps while watching for crake in the evening twilight, all the other common nocturnal birds being observed at such times.

When pursued by a dog this Rail often takes to the water and swims two decent distances.

While sitting on a haycock in the Fresh Pond marshes this evening watching day pass into night a Rail rose some distance off and came by me flying in the usual slow way with dangling legs; I had previously supposed that when rising in this manner they flew differently.

Heard one singing in the Fresh Pond marshes.

Three in the swamps this evening, one calling incessantly Ker-o, Ker-o, Ker-o the others cackling.

Literally swarming in the swamps near the Fresh Pond crossing. In one little patch of meadow interspersed with thickets, here must have been dozens, and I free nently heard four or five calling at once. Here a succession of squealing notes given in a low tone and sounding not unlike those uttered by the muskrat in spring attracted my attention. Approaching cautiously and peering over a thick bush, I discovered a pair of Carolina Rails within a few yards of me. They were going through the ceremonies of their courtship. The female skulked coyly through the grass closely followed by the male, both birds twisting and dodging about in the little opening which was only a few yards square. Every now and then the female would stop and allow the male to overtake her. Spreading his tail to its utmost, and elevating it nearly vertically he would strut around her with all the pomp of a turkey cock, uttering all the while the squealing above described. After a moment or two the female would become apparently tired of his attentions and skulk off again, the male following closely as before. Where the water was too deep for wading she would swim, her attentive lover bobbing along gracefully in her wake. The song of this Rail is evidently the Ker-o previously described. The bird also utters at least three other notes, a cackling cutter, cut-cut-cut, [illegible] o almost form a trill; and a single quick sharp [illegible] youngsters in autumn as a cry of alarm.

Porzana carolina.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

May 11.) Swarming in the Fresh Pond swamps. Purdie compared their cackling to the sound of a watchman's rattle turned slowly.

June 1. During a thorough search in the Fresh Pond marshes started only one bird. It rose with ease instantly drawing up its legs, and flying nearly as fast as a Snipe crossed the broadest part of the meadow before alighting The day was clear and fine.

" 10. Heard and saw numbers but could find no nests. A recent rain has flooded the swamps.

" 26. One in the meadow below the reservoir calling cutter, cutter, qua, qua; or sometimes, cut, cut, quar, quar. This harsh and somewhat vibrating termination to the ordinary cackle is new to me.

July 28. Shot two young in fall plumage; they were full grown and flew well.

Aug. 10. I think that most, if not all have left the Fresh Pond marshes, as I hunted for them carefully to-day without finding a single bird.

" 24. I do not believe there is a single Rail of either species left in the swamps.

Oct. 7. Four in the Fresh Pond swamps. My setter pointed them all steadily.

" 11. Shot two in a pond hole in the fields near Fresh Pond.

1876.

Apr. 30. Nesbitt found them abundant in the Fresh Pond swamps this morning.

May 11. Abundant in the Fresh Pond swamps this morning.

Sept.11. Literally swarming in Bird's Pond. Every minute or two one would flit up over the tops of the trees and alight again and the plash of a stone thrown among the reeds was invariably followed by their sharp cries.

1881.

Sept.24. Six or eight seen by Spelman in ditches in the Fresh Pond marshes.

" 27. Started several in tall grass on perfectly dry meadows. One alighted in a button bush, another on a stump.

Porzana carolina

1881.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Oct.13) Shot one on Great Meadows (Concord.

" 20. At sunset saw one feeding on the bank of Concord River.

" 21. We saw the same Carolina Rail come out of the same clump of button bushes at sunset this evening (Concord).

Porsana carolina.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1873.
Sept.18. Come upon one crouching under a log on the heavily timbered bank of Cambridge River about a mile above the dam.

1880.

June 17. Yesterday I heard a male singing on the grassy river-bank, and to-day putting my dog on shore there he quickly flushed the bird which flew, as this species sometimes will, very swiftly with legs drawn up and wings whirring like a Quali's.

" 23. Heard two on the meadows bord ring Cambridge River.

Sept. 4. Shot three on the meadows between the River and the lower pond.

" 13. Shot two on the meadows. They lie closely before a dog.

1882.
Oct.8-22 One shot October 20. Its stomach contained four or five pellets of No. 10 shot (see card).

Porzana carolina.

1874.

Jan. 24. Captain Baxter tells me that they are wintering in numbers at Marston's Mills.

Nov. 5. Heard several in the bushy thickets along the River (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

1875.

Sept.27. Shot an immature bird which started from a tract of scanty beach grass almost under my horses feet. At Smith's Point, Nantucket.

Porza noveboracensis.

1875.

May 4. One shot on the Newburyport marshes by Mr. Joyce.

Oct. Two killed by Goodale during the past month.

1876.

Apr. 30. Goodale had one in the flesh from the immediate vicinity of Boston about two weeks ago.

Porphyrio martinica.

1875.
Apr. 10. One was caught alive at Rockport this morning.

Gallinula galeata.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Sept. 3. A young male shot by Deane in the pond hole at the foot of Vassal Lane.

Oct. 9. Two swimming in a ditch at the pond-hole at the foot of Vassal Lane. I shot one and wounded the other. It rose with dangling legs, flying like a Rail but rather more swiftly, and finally dropping into the bushes. The one killed proved a female.

Fulica americana.

1867.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Oct. 12. Started one from a pebbly beach on the shore of Fresh Pond. It dropped in a detatched bed of reeds rising above the water but although I could see through them in most places I could not find or flush it again.

" 21. While standing on the edge of one of the numerous bushy ponds in the Brickyard Swamp, Cambridge, just at dusk, a Coot flew past and alighted in the water. I fired and missed, when he, with another that was swimming near, rose and pattering over the surface disappeared in the button bushes which encircled the pool and among which the water was several inches deep. In about fifteen minutes both birds reappeared, swimming prettily and cautiously along the edge of the bushes until they came in range when I shot one and the other disappeared in the bushes without rising. These birds when suddenly alarmed take to reeds or bushes instead of flying.

1868.

June 3 Saw one in a large swamp; she must have had a nest as she swam silently out of a thicket of bushes and then remained watching me for sometime.

" " A bird which took to be this species in the Briskyard Swamp. It swam out of some bushes and swam motionless on the water for a moment, watching me in silence. It may possibly have been a Florida Gallinule. I have w[illegible] that I saw a Gallinule [illegible]

Sept.19. One in the Brickyard Swamp. It uttered a cackling cry similar to that of a hen, but harsher, and this being answered from the upper end of the pond, rose with a heavy whirring and joined the other bird. These birds [illegible]

" 25. One (Fresh Pond).

" 31. At daybreak one alighted almost in the middle of Fresh Pond. I sculled out to it and shot it.

Oct. 8. One (Fresh Pond).

" 13. One came into my live duck decoy on Fresh Pond.

" 16. Two in Fresh Pond swimming near the shore. I shot one when the other, after flying some distance, returned and alighted near its companion rec eiving the contents of my other barrel which broke its wing. I started after it in my boat when it swam very fast, and when hard pressed, dove and passed under the boat about eighteen inches beneath the surface. During these dives I could see that it used only its feet. When finally caught it bit and scratched fiercely, but upon being liberated in the boat began to ramble about and pick up small pieces of clay.

" 27. One in the Brickyard Swamp, the last.

Fulica americana.

1869.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Oct. 5) One (Concord).

" 14 Two (Fresh Pond).

" 15. Shot three on Fresh Pond. They would not allow my boat to approach within gun-shot, but landing I approached them without any difficulty.

1870.

Sept.13. One (Fresh Pond).

Nov. 9. One came into Fresh Pond this morning and after being pursued the greater part of the day was finally killed. It acted very odly, keeping well out into the pond and when pursued by several boats sometimes flying, sometimes diving with all the ease of a Sea-duck, often swimming several hundred yards under water and eluding us with great cunning. We often lost sight of it altogether, then it would reappear riding lightly on the waves. Late in the afternoon it alighted on a high bank near the water's e edge and ran across an intervening strip of land to a pond hole where it ws killed. It proved an adult bird in fine plumage. Early in the season these Coots were frequently seen on Fresh Pond. They came in singly, or in pairs, at daybreak, usually alighting near the shore and, if not molested, often joined tame Ducks feeding near the margin and spent the day with them.

1871.

Oct. 6. Two shot on Fresh Pond, the first seen this year.

" 7. One (Fresh Pond).

" 8. One, the last (Fresh Pond).

1874.

Oct. 14. One in Fresh Pond, swimming up deep water some distance from shore.

1879.

Oct. 10. The Coot is seldom a wary bird (At least the few stragglers that visit on New England waters) but the tameness of one found on Concord River exceeded anything that I have seen before. When first noticed this bird was swimming near a bed of lily-pads that margined the stream. As we approached it showed no signs of fear, so laying down the oars, I took a paddle and without using any especial caution actually ran the boat within six feet of it. Even then it simply dodged our bows and continued to feed within reach of the oars. As it gradually increased its distance I turned the boat and again overtook it, getting as near as before. After watching it for some time I pressed it hard and forced it

Wilds correspondence.

1888.

Hitchcock County, Neb.

Oct. 5) One (Concord).

" 14 Two (Fresh Pond).

" 15. Shot three on Fresh Pond. They would not allow my boat to approach within gun-shot, but landing I approached them cautiously and carefully.

1889.

Sept. 11. One (Fresh Pond).

" 8. The same lake found (Lake Cecelia) and after passing through the country pass on the day Thanksgiving falling. It rained very hard, keeping all the lake to myself. Coming with dull the case of a pleasant, clear morning, passed through some rather wild country with great cunning. We often lost sight of it altogether, then it would reappear riding lightly on the waves. Late in the afternoon it alighted on a high bank near the water's edge and ran across an intervening strip of land to a pond hole where it was killed. It proved an adult bird in fine plumage. Early in the season these Geese were frequently seen on Fresh Pond. They came in singly, or in pairs, at daybreak, usually alighting near the shore and, if not molested, often joined tame Ducks feeding near the margin and spent the day with them.

1890.

Oct. 5. Two shot on Fresh Pond, the first seen this year.

" 7. Two (Fresh Pond).

" 8. One, the last (Fresh Pond).

1894.

Sept. 22. One in Fresh Pond, swimming up deep water some distance from shore.

1895.

Oct. 12. The Goot is seldom a very bird (At least the few stragglers that visit on New England waters) but the tameness of one found on Concord River exceeded anything that I have seen before. When first noticed this bird was swimming near a bed of lily-pads that margined the stream. As we approached it showed no signs of fear, so laying down the oars, I took a paddle and without using any especial caution approached within about six feet of it. Even then it simply dodged our bows and continued to feed within reach of the oars. As it gradually increased its distance I turned the boat and again overtook it, getting as near as before. After watching it for some time I pressed it hard and forced it

Fulica americana.

1879.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Oct.10) to fly, which it did only when the boat was within less than three feet. As it rose it ran for some distance on the surface and after a short flight dropped, first lowering its feet and running several yards on the water before finally settling. It was an unusually small individual and swam very low in the water; at each stroke of the feet the head was oscillated in the usual manner. It was busily engaged in picking small particles of food from the lily-leaves, and occasionally plunged down its bill in order to take them from some submerged water plant.

1881.

Sept.27. In the Pine Swamp found a Coot swimming in a dirty pool within twenty yards of the slaughter house. It was very tame and could not be made to fly although we threw a number of stones at it. Once it scrambled awkwardly up a mud bank and climbed to the top of a low stump where it sat basking in the sun.

Falico americana.

1882.

Maine (Lake Sebago).

Oct. 8-22 One shot by ~~W. F. Skillings~~ George King, October ~~10~~ 12th. at the mouth of Cambridge River.

Cygnus americanus.

1871.
Oct. 20. Captain Baxter tells me that he shot two wild Swams here some thirty years ago in a fresh water pond. (Marston's Mills, Mass.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr.Joyce tells me that he saw two at Newport,Vermont, on Lake Hemphomagog in October 1860.

Anser albifrons gambeli.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr. Joyce tells me that he is sure that this Goose does not occur in New England.

Anser hyperboreus.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1881.
Nov. -- It was in a flock of Ducks and was so white that he took it, at first, for a Gull.

~~1881.~~
~~Oct. 8-22~~ George Hayward shot a Goose which must have belonged to this species just befor the Lake froze in.

Bernicla canadensis.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.

Oct. 22. A flock of seven alighted in Fresh Pond this morning. When they first came in sight they were flying high, apparently intending to pass on. But one suddenly left the rest and honking most musically sailed down without a single wing-flap, then wheeling just above the water, alighted among some Herring Gulls. It immediately began to wash and dress its plumage. The others after flying around in circles for sometime joined it.

About an hour later a boat put out after them when they rose high in air in great circles and started again on their way south.

An hour afterwards a single Goose returned and was shot while swimming close in shore.

1868.

Apr. 17. Fifteen migrating northward.

Oct. 7. Five passed over Fresh Pond this evening.

" 8. Fifteen flying over Fresh Pond.

" 23. A large flock in the Fresh Pond this morning at daylight.

1869

Apr. 2. Two flocks flying northward.

Oct. 28. Five alighted in Fresh Pond this morning during a snowstorm.

Nov. 17. A large flock migrating.

1870.

Apr. 1. A large flock migrating.

" 7. Three large flocks migrating. Several others ween within the last few days.

" 22. Saw a large flock in Fresh Ponds.

Sept.-Nov. None seen or heard, an unusual occurrence.

1871.

Apr. 21. Flock of twenty migrating.

Oct. 14. A large flock migrating.

Nov. 10. Three large flocks migrating just in advance of a snow storm.

" 30. Five spent most of the day in Fresh Pond.

Bernicla canadensis.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Apr. 8. A flock following Concord River.

" 12. A large flock seen flying over Cambridge Yesterday.

1876.

Mar. 29. A large flock, high in air, drifting northward before strong south wind, honking and gabbling musically.

Bernicla canadensis.

1882.

Maine (Lake Urbagog.

Oct.8-22 Two heard.

Bernicla canadensis.

1867.
Oct. 7. Flock of about a dozen (Plymouth,Mass.).

1874.

Nov. 24. At Eagle Hill, Ipswich, just as the sun was setting this evening wild Geese appeared from seaward in extraordinary numbers; flock after flock, many flocks containing over a hundred birds, came in over the land, sailing in circles on set wings, many alighting for a few minutes on the closely cropped shore pastures of the great rounded hills. The place seemed not to their liking, however, for all soon rose high in air and resumed their journey southward. As many as five hundred were frequently in sight at once and they kept up an incessant gabble and chatter. The day was cloudy and windy with frequent snow squalls. Yesterday there was a heavy snow storm succeeded by rain and hundreds of geese are reported to have been found in the woods in an exhausted condition.

1876.

Mar. 28. Four in single file, high in air, heading northward. The leading bird was conspicuously larger than any of the others, of which the last was the smallest (Dedham).

Apr. 14. Early this morning two Geese came in from seaward, flying close to the water, and alighted off Point Lepreaux N.B. One swam directly ashore and climbed upon a rock. The others, more suspicious, kept swimming about out of range. I stalked the first without much difficulty and killed it with Number 6 shot. The other started off but when I began to imitate its honk, came back and circled about me, out of gun-shot however.

Bernicla brenta.

1867.
Oct. 6. A flock of fifty (Plymouth, Mass.).

1876.

Apr. 14. Several large flocks passed to-day Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 17. A steady flight all forenoon (Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 16. A heavy flight passed to-day, at least one thousand being seen. (Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 18. An extraordinary flight, beginning at sunrise and lasting till noon. Hundreds of flocks passed, few of which contained less than one hundred birds each. They uttered a confused and rather feeble gabble, much less musical than that of the Canada Goose. They flew about fifteen feet above the water, usually crowded close together in dense clusters. They flap their wings almost precisely in the manner of the Canadan Goose (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 18. All theScoters easily pass these Geese when flying in the same direction and quickly leave them far behind. (Pt.Lepreaux, N.B.).

" " They fly in a long line broken by irregular clumps and clusters (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 19. Two or three flocks passed this morning and later in the day we found an immense flock sitting on the water in Mace's Bay. Here a single bird was discovered on the rocks above high water mark. I landed and crept to within shot of it when it rose just before I fired, with a single quick spring like that of a Black Duck. Upon picking it up I found that its under mandible was gone,--fairly torn out by the roots. This was probably done by a rifle ball and evidently only a few hours before (Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 21. A flock off Thatcher's Island, Mass.

May 6. Several small flocks,Chatham, Mass.

" 7. A few (Chatham, Mass.).

" 8. A gunner here has ten live Brant which he uses as decoys. They were all shot last month and their broken wings are now well healed. They become tame in a few days and are a very beautiful bird. Their notes are a gabble, a quack very like a Duck's but a little hoarser, and a hiss like that of the domestic Goose. Their motions are essentially Goose-like, but they are more graceful than the larger species, running rapidly and easily on land. They feed readily on corn and green grass. (Chatham, Mass.).

Anas boscas.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1875.
Apr. 8. A light grey bird among Black Ducks on Concord River was probably a female of this species.

Anas boscas.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr.Joyce tells me that he usually hears of about half a dozen Mallards being shot in Plymouth County,Mass. each season, usually in September. Twenty years ago they were nearly as common as the Black Duck, but since that time have been gradually and steadily diminishing in numbers.

Anas obscura.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.
Mar. 27. One, the first.

1869.

Apr. 8. Numbers at Concord feeding on the meadows in company with the Wood Ducks. Shy as usual.

1871.

Mat. 16. Two.

" 23. Abundant on Concord River in flocks composed of paired and single birds. In windy weather they desert the river for the small sheltered ponds where I had excellent opportunities to-day of observing their habits, having them frequently within two yards of me. Here, unconsious of danger, they threw off their usual watchfulness and stiffness of carriage, some with heads emersed and feet kicking in the air, searching the bottom for food, others chasing one another about with flapping wings and loud quacking, while those already paired kept a little aloofsailing along side by side and uttering a low whistling grunt similar to that heard from our domestic Mallard. When the flock took wing the mated birds flew in pairs, the pairs twenty or thirty feet apart, but all keeping the same general direction.

Apr. 5. Saw five at Concord.

Sept.15. Five were seen on Fresh Pond.

Oct. 8. Two large flocks on Fresh Pond.

1872.

Apr. 3. Two at Concord.

" 7. Abundant at Concord, Mass (Melvin).

" 25. Numbers at Wayland; they were apparently mating on wing, several drakes often chasing a female high up into the air, doubling, twisting, and circling about, frequently coming down from a great height with set wings. They are said to breed numerously on these meadows.

1875.

Apr. 8. Saw about sixty on Concord River. The water was all over the meadows and extended far back into the woods so that we paddled for miles through maple and pine swamps, occasionally croosing flooded meadows transformed into beautiful little ponds encircled with dark pine foliage. The Ducks were scattered everywhere through these places but were very shy. Several large flocks were sitting on the elevated portions of the river meadow. As we approached they would stand erect with necks stretched up.

Anas obscura.

1875.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Apr.22) A pair flying over the Maple Swamp.

" 23. Four in a birch-encircled pool in the Warren Run, basking in the sun, occasionally playing about on the water and chasing one another. Occasionally one would beat the water with his powerful wings, churning it into foam, then another would begin, and sometimes all four would be thrashing away together making a tremenduous noise. I repeatedly saw a drake swim rapidly around his mate (for they are evidently paired) apparently paying court to her. Occasionally one would quack three or four times but never very loudly. They spent much of their time in preening and arranging their plumage.

Aug. 28. Two this evening flying low down over Bird's Pond.

1876.

Mar. 9. Four seen by Frazar on Rock Meadow, Belmont.

" 23. Four on Cambridge River.

1880.

Oct. 29. A large flock on Concord River.

1881.

Oct. 20. Saw four twice in the same place in Concord River.

" 21. The same four Ducks rose again this morning in the same spot; as we returned late in the afternoon two more had joined them (Concord).

1882.

Sept.28. Passing through the Sudbury Marshes this evening after after dark we occasionally hear the hoarse quack of a Black Duck, startled from its feeding ground by the flapping of our sail or the splash of an oar. For the most part, however, the only sounds that broke the silence were the rushing of the chilly east wind and the seething hiss of thickly falling rain drops on the dim expanse of waters around .

Anas obscura.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1872.
June 9. Saw one flock of sixteen and [illegible] of eighteen on B Meadows. Gideon Stone tells me that they were the old drakes which always band together after the females begin incubating.

1874.
Sept. 1. Shot a pair; one of which was apparently perfectly blind in both eyes, the pupil being opaque and white.

1879.
May 29. Two flocks (one containing [illegible] birds) and many single individuals on B Meadows.

1880.

May 20. About [illegible] on B Meadows.

" 25. Set B-4. Fresh-shell rather [illegible] in; yolk very deep salmon red; nest in the top of an old willow pine stump near the centre of a wooded, heavily-wooded, but [illegible], island in the Sweat Cove. The nest was [illegible] deep cavity hollowed in the crumbling pieces of wood and was [illegible]-ly lined with the bird's down which made a beautiful, dark, raised fringe about the eggs, but did not conceal them. Female sitting; she [illegible] the [illegible] closely from the nest when [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] silence.

June 18. Female with a brood of young apparently just hatched. The mother swam off towards grass island, singing very low in the water in the hope of escaping our observation. The ducklings taking the cue, followed, crowding closely about her, the whole family presenting the appearance of some nondescript animal swimming. When the mother saw that she was discovered she flopped off along the surface like a wounded bird, quacking hoarsely; the young then swam quickly into the grass where we searched for them in vain although the island was only a few yards square. (Lake shore opposite Stone [illegible]).

" 21 Brood of nine young as about as large as Bobwhites on Cambridge river a little below B Meadows. They went ashore before we reached them, and after we passed returned to the stream. The [illegible] was [illegible] with them; they utterred a fine pee, pee, pee, peep.

Sept. 8. About sixty feeding in a pool in the [illegible] surrounded by tall grass. They were very noisy, quacking continually, dozens often calling at the same time. Every little while there was a great flapping of wings and splashing of water as they chased one another over the surface (Sweat Cove).

1881.
June 2. Set C-7. Nest on island in Leonard's Pond.

1882.
Oct. 8-22 Common.

Anas obscura.

1867.

Aug. 28. Two at West Amesbury, Mass.

Sept. 28. Saw about two thousand (Plymouth, Mass.).

Oct. 5. Large flocks on the ocean (Plymouth, Mass.).

" " Found the tracks of one leading directly into a muskrat's hole on the border of a muddy pond. Probably the bird had been wounded (Plymouth, Mass.).

1868.

Feb. 8. Numbers in the market said to have been shot at Randolph, Mass.

June 19. Saw one rise from a marsh in Warren, Mass.

1870.

July 11. One (Ipswich, Mass.).

Aug. 5. One on Profile Lake, N.H.

Sept. 2-10. Nearly every pond about the Forks of the Kennebec, Maine, held one or two flocks reared in the vicinity.

1875.

Sept. 23. They are said to winter in large numbers at Nantucket spending their entire time on the sea and feeding on the flats.

" 27. Started sixteen from a fresh water pool not over ten yards square on the shore of Hummock Pond. Concealing ourselves we awaited their return. Shortly after sunset three Ducks passed us but the flocks did not come back. The sunset was superb and greatly enhanced by the fine view up the pond and out over the foam-flocked ocean, with picturesque sandhills looming up against the rose-tinted sky. (Nantucket).

1876.

Apr. 12. A pair feeding among sea weeds on a rocky reef near Point Lepreaux, N.B.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.

Aug. 15. Saw four on the Eel Pond. The gunners say that they breed in fresh water meadows in this vicinity.

1871.

July 30. Saw one and am told that they were seen here three weeks ago.

Aug. 4. Saw two, probably resident birds.

" 9. Two flocks, one of six, the other of three birds, came in from the sea and passed out to the south. They

Anas obscura.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1871.

(Aug.9) ~~came~~they were evidently migrants.

" 20. Five alighted with a flock of Teal and fed with them for an hour or more.

1872. One seen July 20; four, August 8; two, August 9; thirteen August 15; four, August 16; and several August 23, 24.

Chaulelasmus streperus.

1876.
Feb.24. Mr.Joyce is not certain that he has ever seen this Duck in New England.

Dafila acuta.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

May 23. Mr:Wormell tells me that he has shot it in numbers on Umbagog.

Dafila acuta.

Mass.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr. Joyce tells me that he finds this Duck not uncommon in Mass. It is universally known among the Massachusett gunners as the "Gray Duck".

1873
April 3 Cambridge. Early this morning ("Fast Day") a fine adult male Pintail was shot in the marshy hollow (filled, at this season with a pool of water) on the north side of Vassall's Lane opposite the lower end of Appleton Street, by Mr. Eames (the ice man) who brought the bird to me later in the day with the request that I mount it for him. This I was unable to do but I referred him to Goodale to whom, I think, he afterwards took the specimen.

Spatula clypeata.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog.

May 23. Mr. Worrell tells me that his party has shot this species on Lake Umbagog.

Spatula clypeata.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr.Joyce tells me that he finds this Duck not very uncommon in Massachusetts, although it is never numerous.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1871.

Aug. 19. A young female in good plumage shot in the Eel Pond by D.C.French. It was swimming near the glassy margin and was very tame. Both eyes were obscured by a white, skin-like film that had apparently well-nigh destroyed the poor bird's sight.

Sept. 1. I shot one, a young bird, which I found in the Eel Pond at Daybreak in company with six Blue-winged Teal.

Querquedula discors.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

May 4. Saw an adult male flying over the Brickyard Swamp.

June 8. Shot a male in the perfect breeding plumage in the Brickyard Swamp. He was floated motionless near the middle of a small pool and was alone. The white cresent before the eye was very conspicuous in life.

Sept.19. These pretty little Ducks have been very abundant here this autumn; I have shot many in the Fresh Pond swamps where they frequent the smaller ponds holes and even ditches, rarely visiting the larger sheets of water They huddle close together while swimming, and feed by immersing the head and neck like the mallard. At times when swimming they jerk the head with every motion of the feet. They rise from the water with a single quick spring, and when fairly under way fly swiftly. When about to alight they invariably circled several times around the place and finally plump down almost exactly like a Snipe. They quack like a Duck, and also utter a harsh calac, but their commonest note is a soft, whispering twitter.

Oct. 10. Shot one.

" 24. One shot on Fresh Pond, the last.

1871.

Oct. 4. One on Concord River.

1874.

Sept. 29. A wing-broken one which fell in a brook eluded my dog by diving, so successfully that he was unable to catch her. One of her wings was broken but as she swam under water I distinctly saw that she used the other; after a long dive she would often swim for some distance on the surface with her head and neck stretched out flat and her body so deeply sunk that only the line of the back was visible.

1875.

Sept. 5. Two on a mud-flat in Fresh Pond. It is said that thay are the survivers of six that appeared there this morning.

1876.

Aug. 30. . Maynard found a flock of about a dozen in a little pond in Waltham (on Shade St. opposite the Gore Place) and killed two of them.

Sept.11. Saw two shot in Bird's Pond.

1879.

Oct. 10. A single bird on Concord River.

Querquedula discors.

1881.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Oct. 20. A flock of three on Concord River. They were very shy but I killed one of them.

" 21. Found the two seen yesterday in nearly the same place to-day. French tells me that they appeared on Fairhaven Bay October 8, when there were seven of them. In the course of a few days four were wounded, all escaping by diving and taking to the button bushes. The remaining three have been seen a number of times since. This is a late date.

1882.

Sept.29. Several hundred on Concord River in flocks ranging from five or six to eighty or ninty individuals (I counted seventy-five in one flock). They were nearly as shy as Black Ducks and exceedingly restless, flying aboutv high over the meadows, and often scaling off over the woods. I never saw Teal here in such numbers before or found them as shy anywhere. A heavy easterly storm has prevailed for two days.

Querquedula discors.

Maine (Lake Urbagog).

1873.
Sept.14. A flock of five at the foot of the rapids under the elm near the Lake House. One was shot near the Outlet on the 9th.

1874.
Sept. 3. Flock of eight alighted in the Lake near Leonard's Pond and one was killed.

1880.

Sept. 8. A flock of eight sitting on a mud bank o. Great Island. One which we wounded slightly flew off over the marsh, and dropped in a thicket of bushes, where I afterwards flushed and shot it.

" 14. A flock of six in the first pond. Shot three, one an adult male in fall plumage. A wounded one went ashore and hid in the grass where it was caught by my setter. After I had taken it from him it slipped through my fingers and took to the water. We pursued it in a boat, and had great difficulty in catching it. Although it dove and swam a few feet under water when hard pressed, it seemed to rely chiefly on dodging, which it performed with great skill. Occasionally it quacked in feeble tones. Late in the afternoon! a flock of at least forty of these Teal passed me as I was lieing in my boat at the mouth of Cambridge River. They swept along over the water in a broad extended front, now raising, now lowering their flight, and disappeared up river. A little later we found a third flock swimming close to the edge of the mud in the river. At one moment they would present the appearance of a long line of dusky little forms gliding along close to the edge of the mud; next the line melted out of sight as their brown backs blended with the shore behind; and shortly after would appear again, lengthening and shortening as they strung out or huddled together. As we paddled towards them they paid not the slightest attention to us, and when we finally stopped, actually swam towards us, the foremost coming within fifteen paces. They were feeding busily, and the dabbling of their bills in the water produced an uninterrupted smacking sound. Their necks were extended along the surface so that it was difficult to make out their forms and they looked precisely like lumps of animated mud. Finally getting them well together I killed eleven with my two barrels. The five survivers alighted barely more than a gun shot away and again paddled close to them when they flew and I fired at the two hindmost ones, killing both.

Querquedula discors.

1880.

Maine (lake Umbagog).

(Sept.15) A flock of at least forty feeding near the shore of the upper pond meadow. I stalked them carefully but might have saved myself the trouble, for when I rose to shoot they did not seem to notice me in the least and I had to whistle to make them raise their heads. Although I took no pains to get them together I killed - seven with two barrels. The flock almost immediately alighted again and taking our canoe into the pond we paddled up to them and killed six more. They then flew down river where we afterwards found the rest thing on the Bar. As we approached they crossed it, huddling close together and walking very fast and gracefully for ducks. These teal are very tender and easily killed.

" 16. A flock of four in the Outlet; very wary.

" 18. Six in the lower meadow pond, and we saw the single bird in the Sweat Cove..

Querquedula discors.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1871.

(Sept.2) Three came in early this morning but they were so shy that no one could get within shot. One or two birds slightly wounded have alighted on the ocean this year after being shot in the pond.

1872. Not seen at all this year although I stayed as late as August 26.

Querquedula discors.

1875.
Sept.25. Shot one on Long Pond, Nantucket. It was in company with two Wood Ducks.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1869.
Aug. 25. A flock of about a dozen, the first. From this time till August 28 they came into the Eel Pond every morning.

1870.

Aug. 23. Three on the Eel Pond.

" 27. A flock of twenty-six on the Eel Pond. They were very tame. When several were shot the survivers still refused to leave the pond and more than half were finally killed. The wing-broken ones took to the shore and hid closely.

1871.

Aug. 20. A flock of nine in the Eel Pond at daylight. They passed they forenoon in nearly the same spot tipping up their tails and kicking their feet in the air as they explored the muddy bottom. About noon they were joined by five Black Ducks which fed with them for an hour or more. Finally they were fired into, three of the Ducks and one Teal being killed. The Teal after a few wheeling flights alighted again but shortly afterwards left the pond passing out high in air to the south. An hour later they returned and alighted near the shore, all burying their heads in their feathers and apparently going to sleep. During the remainder of the day they stayed in the pond, occasionally taking short flights but quickly returning to the ~~pond-again~~water. On the following morning they were still in the pond but they were very shy and on the first alarm passed out to the south and were seen no more.

" 31st Two alighted among my Teal decoys when I was absent from the stand. They were shy and although I pursued them for sometime I failed to get a shot.

Sept. 1. Clear and cold. At daybreak found two flocks of Teal on the Eel Pond or rather on its bordering marshes now flooded by the overflow of the pond. The larger flock containing about twenty birds was fired into by a gunner who sculled an open dory to within twenty or thirty yards of them--and missed every bird when he shot. They all rose high in air and passed out to the south. The smaller flock, consisting of six Teal and a Spatula clypeata, although only a few hundred yards away, did not fly at the report and I killed them all in three shots. Later in the morning another flock of four came into the pond.

Nettion carolinensis.

1867.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Aug. 14. Saw three Teal which I took to be Green-winged on Concord River, Mass. The following day (Aug.15) saw about a dozen of the same species and shot one, which, however, escaped in the rank meadow grass.

1868.

Apr. 4. Started two from a small brook.

Sept.12. Shot a young male. He was swimming near the margin of a small pond and looked much larger than he really was.

" 8. Shot one that came down to my live decoy.

Oct. 10. Saw one to-day. He lit in a ditch but rose before I could get within range.

" 19. Shot one this afternoon.

" ~~28.~~ 24 Shot three this morning; an adult male and a female and a young bird. The pond was entirely closed with ice, except a small channel in which they were swimming (Glacialis Pond).

Nov. 4. Decoyed two almost within gunshot when they became alarmed at something and would come no nearer.

Nov. 6. Shot one of two that lived on Sherman's Pond, Waltham, for the past two or three weeks. They sit rather higher on the water than the Blue-wings and rise with greater ease and rapidity. Their flight is very swift and elegant and like most other Ducks, they always circle about a place before alighting. Their notes are varied: The most common is a very singular twanging sound resembling the syllables "hainк"; I have also heard them utter a loud cry just before taking wing precisely similar to that produced by a domestic hen upon being suddenly seized.

" 7. The surviving comrade of the Teal shot yesterday was not in Sherman's Pond this morning.

1869.

Apr. 10. A pair on Fresh Pond. I tried to approach them in a boat when they rose out of range and left the pond.

1870.

Sept.12. One shot on Fresh Pond.

Oct. 4. The last was shot on Fresh Pond. Unusually abundant this year.

1871.
Sept. 6.

Robbing compliments.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Nettion carolinensis.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1871.
Sept. 6. An immature bird shot among a flock of tame ducks on Fresh Pond. I was told by their owner that it had lived with them for ten days, even walking up a steep bank to the house where they were fed.

1874.
Oct. 3. Shot one which rose from a ditch in the Fresh Pond marshes.

1875.

Apr. 8. A large flock of Teal on Concord River were probably of this species.

" 23. A female shot in the Fresh Pond swamps by Nesbitt.

1880.
Oct. 29. One on Concord River.

Nettion carolinensis.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Sept. 8. A rather rare bird here, but a few are killed each year.

Nettion carolinensis.

1874.
Nov. 4. One shot in a brakish creek on the edge of the salt marsh (Marston's Mills, Mass.) .

Aix sponsa.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.
Oct. 26. Shot a drake in perfect plumage in one of the pond-holes in the Brickyard Swamp, Cambridge.

1868.

Apr. 13. A female shot from a flock of seven in the Fresh Pond swamps.

" 18. Shot a fine male this morning; he alighted in a flooded maple swamp at the foot of the ridge bordering the Pine Swamp, and sailed over the water very gracefully every now and then uttering a very loud oe-eek. His stomach contained a quantity of pure white sand, and a hazel nut. The Wood Ducks at the Fresh Pond Hotel have stood the winter ~~lond~~ well, although kept in an exposed pen made of slats; they are now quite tame.

" 27. Saw a pair on a small flooded meadow; As I approached they walked into a clump of trees on the edge of the water where I shot the female.

May 2. A male was shot; but as its tail was worn down almost to a stub and the plumage very imperfect I suspect that it had recently escaped from confinement.

" 5. A female was shot to-day.

July 25. Shot a young male in the Brickyard Swamp. His body was well feathered but his wings had only pin feathers and he was unable to fly; he must have been bred in the vicinity. His crop was distended by the seeds of various water grasses.

Sept.19. They have been abundant here this autumn as several broods were raised in the swamps. For several weeks past they have regularly left the Brickyard Swamp in small flocks just as the day was dawning, and again at sunset, taking flights of a mile or more in a southerly direction, then returning and pitching down again into their fastnesses. These consist of a number of broad ditches, over-grown with bushes and joined together by narrow strips of water. Here they may be found at almost any time of the day, although they visit the larger ponds under cover of the darkness. While watching some Teal in Trout Pond to-day I noticed a movement in the bushes, and a superb Wood drake sailed out closely followed by another drake and two females. They joined the little Teal which with feet kicking in the air and heads under water were feeding on the bottom, and the flock closing together began swimming along the margin of the pond. The Wood Ducks then landed and after dressing their feathers and shaking their tails sideways, precisely like tame

Aix sponsa.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Sept.19) Ducks, launched into the water again and approached the place of my concealment. I got the two males together and killed them both at a shot; the females did not fly at the report and I secured one with the other barrel. The drakes showed to great advantage on the water especially when the sunbeams, penetrating the bushes, rested on their superb plumage. This flock kept up a continual twittering almost exactly like that of a flock of Tree Sparrows but I could not tell whether it was produced by the Wood Duck or the Teal. The Wood Duck when flying utters a loud o-clark, o-clark very like the scream of a Guinea Hen. One flock which I started suddenly, honked like geese as they rose. The males can be readily distinguished from the females while flying provided the sun is shining.

" 22. A flock of four came in to my live decoy on Fresh Pond just as day was breaking.

" 26. A flock of three flying. They are getting scarce.

Oct. 10. A flock of about a dozen, evidently migrants, came into Fresh Pond this morning. They were readily decoyed by some tame ducks but only one was killed.

1869.

Apr. 5. Two in the swamp.

" 6. One.

" 8. Upwards of fifty on Concord River. The meadows are overflowed offering extensive feeding grounds. During the night these Ducks visit the ploughed fields in great numbers, leaving the soft ground covered with their foot prints; through the day they feed on cranberries in the meadows. Several which we killed had their crops filled with these berries.

Oct. 7. Abundant on Concord River; shot several. The drakes are now in perfect plumage and we saw no immature birds. Had a good chance to watch their habits. Men im thick grass or bushes they frequently allowed our boat to pass within a few yards of them without moving, and on several occasions we found it impossible to start a flock which we had just seen alight.

1870.

Oct. 2. Two on Sherman's Pond, Waltham.

" 21. Shot three on Smith's Pond. Two which were only wounded made out into the pond but when pursued by my dog dove once or twice and disappeared. Melvin tells me that he has had them cling to the roots on the bottom long after life was extinct.

Aix sponsa.

1871.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Apr. 29. Numbers seen on Concord River by Melvin.

1872.

Apr. 3. About twelve of both sexes on Concord River.

1874.

Sept.30. Shot a very fine drake in the Fresh Pond swamps.

1872.

Apr. 3. Killed a pair on the Assabet River, Concord, at the hemlocks, and saw many others on Concord River.

1874.

Oct. 18. On the Assabet River ,Concord a pair of Wood Ducks (the drake a superb fellow) came rustling down the steep bank among some alders, and alunching out into the water sat motionless for a moment within good gun shot of our boat; the next they took wing and flew up river, but within two hundred yards the male alighted in the water and landing, scuttled up the bank into the bushes. When we came to the spot he rose directly from the bushes.

" 22. On the Trout Pond in "Fairyland", Concord, I surprised a pair of Wood Ducks feeding close under the shore and after watching them for sometime, killed both at a shot. They were very playful, repeatedly chasing one another about, lashing the water with their wings. Their crops were distended with red-oak acorns, which produced a rattling sound audible at some distance when the bird was shaken.

1875.

Oct. 13. Reaching the Trout Pond in "Fairyland", Concord, just before sunset I found that little sheet of water unusually beautiful. The rays of the setting sun glancing through the pines on the western side, threw portions of its surface into shadow lighting up others and strongly tinging the golden-yellow birches on the eastern shore. Trout were rising in all directions, some of the larger ones sending their rings fairly from shore to shore. In the woods chipmunks were "chucking" on all sides, and in the breathless stillness the rustle of every leaf stirred by their merry scampering came distinctly to the ear. Suddenly overhead I heard the light silvery whistle of wings and the next moment a flock of ten Wood Ducks came hurdling down over the pond. I shot into them wounding one which alighted on the further extremity of the pond where it was immediately joined by four others. As I was exposed to their view I could do nothing but sit perfectly still, until, at length, they rose and disappeared over the woods. Three of the five were superb drakes and as they sat on the edge of the water preeming themselves their feathers in the last rays of the sinking sun, their briliant plumage was displayed to unusual advantage.

Aix sponsa.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1876.
Oct. 16. Started a pair from a peat hole in "Hall's", Concord; and shot the male, a drake in perfect plumage.

1880.
Oct. 29. Shot one on Concord River.

Aix sponsa.

1873.

Maine (Lake Chebagog).

Aug. 12. Shot one on Cambridge River about two miles above the dam.

" 14. Shot a young bird fully grown, but without wing-feathers, on Cambridge River.

" 23 Shot three on Cambridge River. I think they were all adult males, judging by the apparent red color of their bills and feet. Their plumage, however, was nearly like that of the young male at this season.

1874. At the head of
Sept.15. Sturtevant Pond we shooted two from the inlet. As they circled past us out of range they occasionally twitched their heads violently, and once or twice nearly stopped in the air, at the same time shaking themselves. I have seen this before.

1880.
May 18. A female flying about among the stubs evidently had a nest in the vicinity, for she frequently came overhead showing much anxiety, and rolling through her shrill: o' clerk. We saw a male in the same spot yesterday.

" 21. Set A-10 . Fresh--nest in hole in small live elm; standing in water about twenty yards from shore; height about twelve feet. Nest now one foot fifteen inches below the entrance; the cavity descending nearly vertically. We rapped sharply on the tree and out came the sitting bird. Upon beginning to climb it, however, she came out with great haste, flew off in silence and was not again seen. The eggs were so perfectly covered with the birds down that not one could be seen.

June 23. Three or four on Cambridge River above the dam. A young male which I killed was in nearly the plumage of the female. It was shot through the head and as we approached, repeatedly leaped freely clear of the water (several feet deep), using its feet alone.

1881.

May 23. Set B-7. Fresh. Nest in yellow red maple. The entrance hole was a long, wide slit, much larger than that of any duck's nest that I have ever previously found. It was not over five feet above the water and as the hollow descended nearly two feet the bottom was very nearly down to high water mark. The eggs were laid on rotten wood but, as usual, were carefully covered with down, and when I looked in I could only see one of them. The female was swimming among the drift wood within fifty yards of the spot but the eggs were cold. We secured a male about a hundred yards from his mate. He flew a few rods and rising rapidly alighted on a horizontal branch of a birch stub where he sat for some time watch-

Aix sponsa.

1881.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

(May 28) ing our notions. The locality was a small flooded meadow opening in from the Androscoggin River about fifty yards below the mouth of the Magalloway.

June 1. A female with young in the first bend below the Lake House. This is the first brood of young ducks seen here this year.

1882.

Oct. 8-22 One seen in Cambridge river October 1[illegible].

Aix sponsa.

1875.
Sept.25. A pair sprang from a red-margined brook the outlet of Long Pond,Nantucket. I shot them both.

Fulix marila.

1872.

Feb. 14. A fine adult male in the market from Cape Cod.

Mar. 26. About forty Scaup Ducks in the market from Cape Cod were all of this species.

Fulix affinis.

1869.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Oct. 18 A flock of four came into Fresh Pond this morning three of which were shot. They came in readily to a live Mallard decoy, but were rather shy of a boat.

" 27. Two came into Fresh Pond this morning and were shot.

Nov. 1. Twok one of two that came into Fresh Pond this morning. I sculled within long range without much difficulty, and after shooting one the other would not leave the pond, although it became exceedingly shy. They swam rather low in the water frequently lying over on one side pluming themselves. The only note that I heard from either of them was a low harsh croak. They rose with rather more ease than most "sea-ducks", and when fairly on wing advanced with great swiftness. While flying the markings on the wings showed with great distinctness.

1870.

Oct. 29. An adult male killed on Fresh Pond.

1871.

Nov. 2. Shot two on Fresh Pond, both typical affinis.

Dec. 5. R.Deane started one from the ground in the hemlock grove bordering Fresh Pond.

1874.

Oct. 13. A male on the Assabet River, Concord, feedingamong some rushes. He was very tame and we paddled within ten yards of him before he would fly. He sat very low in the water and as he swam kept twitching his tail from side to side with great rapidity. His head and neck looked proportionately large and thick. When he rose he trailed his feet along the surface for a few yards then raised them up behind extended back under his tail.

Fulix affinis.

1872.

Jan. & Feb. A few sent in at intervals from Cape Cod.

Feb. 9. Two fresh s pecimens in the market sent in from Cape Cod this morning.

Fulis collaris.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.
Nov. 26. Shot a young male in Smith's Pond. He was swimming close in shore and looked nearly as large as a Black Duck. He dove once, remaining under water only a short time.

Fulix collaris.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr. Joyce tells me that he has seen only one New England-shot specimen, a fine adult male which he killed in 1872.

Aethyia vallisneria.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Oct. 24. A flock of eight Ducks which I took to be of this species came into Fresh Pond this morning. I sculled within thirty yards of them but owing to an accident, did not get a shot. Two were adult males whose chestnut head and necks, white backs, and black tails were all conspicuous in the sunlight as they floated buoyantly on the dark water. Deane afterwards got a shot into them and wounded two which dived so adroitly that he lost both.

[I have now no doubt that these Ducks were Red-heads (A. americana) (W. B. Dec. 1894)]

Aethya vallisneria.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr.Joyce tells me that a few are occasionally shot in Plymouth Bay.

Athya americana.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1880.
Sept.12. A adult male in worn breeding plumage shot in the upper pond in the meadow. It was accompanied by another of the same species and both were swimming near a small company of Hooded Mergansers. As the flock rose the Red-heads separated from the other and circled over my guide's head.

1882.
Oct.8-22. Two adult males were shot October by M. Palto.

see p. 197.

Aethya americana.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr.Joyce tells me that he has never seen this Duck in New England.

Bucephala islandica.

1875.
Nov. 21. Cory hasa young male in which the white lunate spot on the head is indicated by a faint tracery of light spots.

1876.
Apr. 11. Saw two adult males at Easrpott ,Maine.

Bucephala americana.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Oct. 27. Near the middle of Fresh Pond I started a flock of these Ducks before daylight. The pond, smooth as a mirror, lay bathed in the silvery light of the moon, while the eastern sky was beginning to be just touched with rose. As they left the water the mingled rush and flutter of their wings was distinctly audible and a few moments later the clear whistle of their wings came down through the still air as they circled over the pond, growing fainter each moment as they passed off towards the south. The effect was indescriba bly fine.

" 29. A flock of six in Fresh Pond. Too shy to afford a shot.

1870.

Nov. 8. Shot a female on Fresh Pond sculling to within long range of her in an open boat. She was shy and restless.

1872.

Apr. 9. At Concord, saw eleven near the French's landing, an adult male at Egg Rock, and numbers near Ball's Hill; we found it impossible to approach them in even a brushed boat. The noise made by their wings when flying could be heard a long distance.

" 3 Six on the Assabet River, Concord, about half-a-mile above Egg Rock, and numbers on the meadows near Ball's Hill.

1875.

Apr. 8. About a dozen on Concord River.

Bucephala americana.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1875.

June 3. A nest containing four of this species and one of the Hooded Merganser was found by Gideon Stone in a stub about fifteen feet above the water.

1873.

Aug. 12. Shot a young bird on Cambridge River about two miles above the dam.

" 19. Shot a young bird about half grown near the mouth of Bottle Brook on the Megalloway; it was alone, and diving for food.

1876.

June 3. A female shot to-day near the Outlet would have laid her first egg in a few hours.

1879.

June 6. George Hayward tells me that he took a set of fifteen eggs on the 18 last; the nest was in a dead stub about twelve feet above the water, the eggs nearly fresh. The female was exceedingly shy and regularly flew from the hole before he got within gunshot of the tree. He considers this species one of the slyest of the ducks when sitting.

" 15. I have long known that the nests of this species often contained parasitical eggs of other Ducks, especially of the Hooded Merganser. It now appears that the whistler sometimes returns the compliment, for Alva Coolidge tells me that while collecting for Dr.Stearn's son he took a set of thirteen Duck's eggs, and six Whistlers. A female Wood Duck was sitting on these eggs.

1880.

June 1. Found a nest in a natural cavity about ten feet above the water in the east side of a small ash stub. The hole descended about twelve inches. The female flew from the hole when we were about twenty yards away; her bill was wide open, but, save for the whistling of her wings, she went off in silence. The cavity contained three whole eggs, from one of which a duckling was trying to escape, and three recently hatched young. There was no nest, only a little of the birds down about the eggs and young.

" " Set C-11. Eggs far advanced; nest in a natural cavity entering the end of a large broken branch of al elm stub and descended about three feet; entrance twelve inches in diameter. Upon rapping at the base of the stub we immediately heard a Duck's claws rattling against the trunk inside and presently a female whistler appeared at the entrance and immediately took wing, croaking like the Hooded Merganser as she went off.

Bucephala americana.

1880.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

(June 1) The cavity contained eleven eggs and one Hooded Merganser's, all laid on the rotten wood at the bottom with a very little of the birds down; not at twenty feet.

" 17. A female with brood of young at least three weeks old, near the mouth of Cambridge River; the little fellows ran on the surface like Sheldrake, then separated and dove so adroitly that we could not catch one of them.

1881.

May 20. Set E-8. Incubated three or four days. Nest in elm stub standing in the water near the Outlet; hole a natural one where a limb had rotted out; it entered on the side of the tree and descended about five feet. The eggs were laid on the rotten wood, and, as usual, were completely covered in down. The female flew from the hole when we were fifty yards away although we were making but little noise.

" " Set E-7. Incubated [illegible] days. Nest in hole in live [illegible] tree which stood in the water within fifty yards of the nest just described. The hole was similar in character and descended about four feet. Some of the Duck's down clung to the wood about the entrance which was very smooth. Eggs so completely buried in down that not one was visible when we looked in on the nest. The bird sat closer than she has but came out when we struck the tree. She started off very stealthily descending nearly to the water. The entrance hole was about ten feet above the water, on the west side of the tree; so far as I have observed the Whistler is the only Duck that will come out of its nest before the climber begins to ascend the tree.

1882.

Oct. 8-22. Common; towards the close of our stay they perceptibly increased in numbers. Very shy.

Bucephala americana.

1872.
Mar. 27. Examined about a hundred whistler from the Quebec rapids, Canada. At least 90 per cent of them were adult males, some, however, showing traces of brown in the green of the head. The remaining ten percent were mostly immature males, there being only two females in the entire lot. There was not a single B.islandica among them.

1876.
Apr. 18. Rather numerous here. They fly higher above the sea than any other folw here and may be easily distinguished by their conspicuously large heads and rapid wing beats. (Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

Bucephala albeola.

1867.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Nov. 27. Saw one (the same) probably, as that seen on the 23d) on Spy Pond and was told that it had been there for a number of days. It floated lightly on the water and would swim for some distance without diving, then stop, and disappear with the quickness of thought, remaining under for a remarkably long time. It would continue diving in nearly the same place till its appetite was satisfied, and then float about idly for a long time, cleansing and arranging its plumage. When fired at from "out of range" it swam quickly off without diving. On being pursued in a boat it would dive several times, and then, although the water was almost perfectly smooth, nothing could be seen of it for perhaps fifteen or twenty minutes, when it wuld appear, perhaps sitting unconcernedly on the water in nearly the same place in which it went down, or else in some different part of the pond. Once I cornered it in a narrow-mouthed cove but it dove and soon reappeared in the centre of the pond.

1868.

Oct. 20. Shot a young male on Fresh Pond.

" 24. Several on Fresh Pond.

1869

Oct. 21. Five shot on Fresh Pond. They were tame and easily approached in an open boat.

1870.

Nov. 3. Shot one on Fresh Pond, the only specimen seen there this autumn.

Bucephala albeol .

1880.

Maine (Lake [illegible]).

May -- Mrs. Bartlett has an adult female nest on Lake Urbagog this month.

June 1. Saw a fine adult male near Peasley's Brook this morning, and a female in the same place late in the afternoon. The latter was feeding in the mouth of the water's edge, as very tame, allowing me to get within close gun range. Captain Peasley tells me that he has seen the pair several times lately. I also saw a other adult male on the Merrimacky this morning.

Buchphala albesla.

1872.
Jan.Feb. A few specimens, most of them males in adult plumage, sent inton Boston Market from Cape Cod.

Histrionicus torquatus.

1876.

Feb. 24. Mr.Joyer tells me that some three years ago his dog, a trained "toler", drew in a flock of about twenty Harlequin Ducks at Ducksburry. It was Sunday and he had no gun but they swam to within a few rods of him and as there were several fine drakes among them he feels sure of his identification.

Apr. 2. Received a fine adult male from St.John, New Brunswick. Its flesh was dark like that of a Scoter; the neck turned over the head with some difficulty; it evidently would not have bred for a long time.

" 18. A pair seen by Thomas early this mor ing diving close to the rocks; they soon left (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

1881.

Jan. - The stomach of an adult male send me by Manly Hardy, contained two large Snail shells in which were the bodies of the snales themselves, deadbut quite fresh.

Harelda glacialis.

1870.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Nov. 5. Two came into Fresh Pond this morning in company with eight Rudy Ducks. They were very tame one alighting within shot of my boat by the side of a duck that had just been killed, while I sculled within shot of the other without any difficulty.

1871.

Oct. 24. A flock of seven adults ♂♂ came into Fresh Pond this morning but did not alight.

1875.

Nov. 8. A female killed on Fresh Pond this morning by Frazar.

Harelda glacialis.

1876.

They float very deep and when swimming carry their bills only an or two above the surface. Point Lepreaux?N.B.).

Apr. 12. Thomas killed one in nearly full breeding plumage the only one in that condition in a large number seen to-day.

" " Numbers at Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.

" 13. A heavy flight to-day at Point Lepreaux,N.B.

" 14. Many in changing plumage and several fine drakes in the black summer plumage (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 15. Shot a drake in winter plumage (Point Lepreaux,N.B.)

" " Their flight is peculiar and at a ~~distance~~once distinguishes them from any other Duck. It is somewhat erratic, and accompanied by a certain "dip" to the wings ; sometimes the wings seemed to be moved independently of one another (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 16. Two old drakes in winter plumage swimming close in under the shore. They are exceedingly graceful birds on the water, moving about with great ease and carrying their long tails rather high. Like the Coots they always open their wings when they dive, and make an irregular splash as they disappear. The Loons and Sheldrake dive very differently and much more gracefully, leaping almost clear of the water, and cleaving its surface so skillfully as to leave only a faint ring behind. (Point Lepreaux , N.B.).

" " They invariably skim close to the surface of the water and their erratic flight reminds me somewhat of a Petrel's (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

1881.

Jan. 3. Several large flocks in Swampscott Harbor. I was struck by the resemblance, while flying, to the Passenger Pigeon.

Mar. 19. A few at Marblehead riding the waves just outside the breakers.

Somateria dresseri.

1876.

Apr. 10. Near Boon Island, Isles of Shoals, seven Eiders (three males and four females), passed the steamer; the coloring of the drakes is very conspicuous.

" 12. Numerous at Point Lepreaux,N.B.

" 15. Two or three large flocks passed, one containing at least seventy-five birds. They flew close to the water and usually in a long parallel line, like the front rank of a regiment of soldiers presenting a most beautiful appearance, the drakes appearing almost entirely white (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 16. Two or three large flocks passed to-day (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 18. Several large flocks passed (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" " Their flight is heavy and invariably close to the surface of the water; they flap their wings slower than the Coots but not as slowly as the Brant (Point Lepreaux, N.B.

May 7. A fine adult male (Chatham, Mass.).

" 16. A flock of eightvin a large bed of Coots. Several of them were fine Drakes (Chatham, Mass.).

Somateria spectabilis.

1875.
July 21. Saw four or five at Willey's Portland, all taken near that city last winter.

Aedomia americana.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.
Oct. 3. An adult male came into Fresh Pond this morning. At first when pursued by a boat he would rise and flying low over the surface of the water would alight again at some distance. At length receiving a wound in the wing he took to diving, swimming long distances under water, and exposing only a portion of his head when he came to the surface. He was killed the following day.

Oedienia americana.

1882.

Maine (Lake Urbagog).

Oct.8-22. Many [illegible] in the Lake during the first half of October. A flock of over [illegible] hundred was observed October 8 when [illegible] were killed (see card).

Oedemia americana.

1872.

Jan.& Feb. Abundant in Boston market from various localities in mass.

1876.

Apr. 12. A large flock near Point Lepreaux,N. . I shot down one which immediate ly dove and was not seen again.

" 13. At Point Lapreux,N.B. they were flying all day in multitudes and the water in all directions was covered with great beds of them.

" 14. A heavy flight during the morning (Pt.Lapreaux,N.B.).

" " Spent much time to-day watching them through a powerful telescope; they are decidedly the most active and lively of the Water-fowl here. They have a frequent habit of rushing around on thesurface of the water, apparently walking on the tips of their toes with their bodies perpendicular, uttering incessantly the while, a very loud and curious note. This steals in over the sea from all directions and may be often heard when the flock producing it is too fa r off to be seen. It has a peculiarly plaintive melancholy sound; especially as when it is heard as it was last night long after darkness has set in (as late as 10 P.M.). This, as well as the other Coots, is an exceedingly graceful bird on the water. It st etches up its neck much higher than the Old Squaw. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 15. A flock of five flying past the point, uttering a peculiar low mur muring (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" " A heavy but intermittant flight all day, few alighting on the water. Thomas tells me this is always the case when they are flying steadily. The present species is still much more numerously represented here than either of the other two. (Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 16. To-day for the first time, this species was much outnumbered by the Surf Scoter. It is a less graceful bird on the water carrying its neck and head more stifly and at times strikingly resembling its fresh-water namesake Fulika americana. It frequently elevates its tail almost vertically. When diving the whole flock disappears almost simultaneously. When migrating they always pass close over the water their long lines following the undulations of the waves (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 18 Only a few seen to-day; the greater number have evidently passed, while the migration of Surf Scoters is now at its height, and that of the velvet Scoter just beginning. (Pt.Lepreaux,N.B.).

Oedemia americana.

1876.

(Apr.18). Their tenacity of life is simply extraordinary! a male shot down from a passing flock at once began to ~~fly~~. dive. Approaching within good range I gave him a number 3 shot which which knocked him over on his back where he lay kicking his feet in the air for a moment, then righting, swam a few yards, calling loudly, and dove again passing a long distance under water. This was actually repeated three times before the bird could be caught, each each shock knocking him fairly o over on his back.(Pt. Lepreaux,N.B.).

May 16. Fully as numerous as any of the allied species in an immense bed of Coots opposite the Lighthouse on Monomoy Island (Chatham,Mass.).

There must have been thousands collected here; they were strung along the shore just outside the surf for over half a mile, and flocks were continually coming and going. As we approached in a sail-boat nearly all rose together and the air seemed fairly full of them. As they went off they separated into bunches and after a few minutes began to return, when in a surprisingly short time another large bed would be formed. I did not hear one of them utter a sound (Chatham,Mass.).

Melanetta velvetina.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.
Oct. 1. Three in Fresh Pond this morning in a large flock of Rudy Ducks.

1869.
Oct. 11. A young bird exhausted, but apparently unhurt, caught in the cornfield in Concord; we had a heavy easterly storm last night.

1870.
Oct. 23. One shot on Fresh Pond.

1871.
Oct. 13. Shot two on Fresh Pond, both young birds.

Melanetta velvetina.

1881.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

May 23. While roving down the Lake we discovered three of these bucks swimming out from shore, nearly opposite Black Island Cove. We got within about one hundred yards of them when they rose and flew up the Lake. One was a fine Drake, the other two females. We could distinctly see the white spot on the end of the male and the white secondaries of all three gleamed in the sun as they flew past the evergreen-clad shores.

" 25. A fine adult male swimming in the Lake off Great Island; the wind east and the Lake very rough. He was shy rising before we could get within gun-shot.

Melanetta velvetina.

1872.

Jan.& Feb. Large numbers in Boston Market from Cape Cod, mostly immature birds.

1875.

Sept.22. A flock passing high over Smith's Point, Nantucket.

" 29. A small flock passing over Coatue Point flying low down. (Nantucket).

1876.

Apr. 13. A few scattering individuals. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.)

" 15. A few single birds passing, all keeping apart from the other Coots. (Point Lepreaux, N.B.).

" 18. Flying this morning in fair numbers, almost invariably apart from the other species, occasionally in company with Surf Scoters, very rarely with Oe.americana.(Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 19. At least half of the Coots migrating this morning were of this species. I heard its note to-day for the first time; it is a hoarse hac-hac-hac-hac very like the cry of the Surf Scoter but a little higher in tone. Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 21. A flock off Thatcher's Island,Mass.

May 6. Several flocks (Chatham,Mass.).

" 16. In am immense bed of Coots congregated just outside the surf off Chatham,Mass., this species was equally as fully as numerously represented as either the American or Surf Scoters (See obs. under Oedemia americana).

" 17. A flock of about one hundred was passing high over head towards the north when my companion (Mr.Brown) suddenly gave a loud yell. Instantly the whole flock came pitching down headlong, each bird acting precisely as if it had been shot; as the descended their set wings produced a rushing sound like wind roaring through pines. They all came to within a few feet of the water and then resumed their journey. We tried this experiment on several other flocks and it invariably proved successful. (Chatham,Mass.).

1881.

Jan.3. Saw one in Swampscott Harbor.

Pelionetta perspicillata.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.
Oct. 13. A single young bird shot in Fresh Pond this morning; the weather of late has been clear and cold.

1870.
Oct. 17. Shot one on Fresh Pond. As I sculled up to it, it sat with its head buried in its feathers apparently asleep, although it was broad daylight at the time.

1880.
Oct. 20. A flock of eight on Concord River near Ball's Hill. I shot three including an adult male and female, the former the only adult male in the flock. They were very tame, allowing me to paddle within good shot of them but, as usual, exceedingly tough and hard to kill. The body of the female was encased in fat of a deep orange color.

Polionetta perspicillata.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1874.
Sept.17. Saw a flock of fifteen in the middle of the Lake. A heavy north-east storm gathering.

1882.
Oct.8-22 On October 11 five were shot from a flock of seven by George Hayward (I saw the birds). Both this and the preceding species are regular fall migrants.

Pelionetta perspicillata.

1872.
Jan.& Feb. Among hundreds of "Coots" in Boston Market from the coast of Mass., I have been unable to find a single specimen of this species.

1875.
Oct. 2. A large flock flying high in air above Wood's Holl was composed entirely of adult males of this species.

1876.

Apr. 13. Among the multitudes of O.americana, passing Point Lepreaux to-day this species occurred in the proportion to one to four of the former. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 14. While watching a flock to-day through a powerful telescope I distinctly saw several dringing sea water, elevating the bill in at each swallow in precisely the manner of a hen. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 15. Numbers migrating in company with the much more numerous O.americana. (Point Lepreaux, N.B.).

" 16. An extraordinary flight of Coots this afternoon, beginning about 2 P.M. and lasting till dark, the majority being of this species. Thousands upon thousands were continually passing, stringing out in long lines, clustered together in masses, and indeed marshaled in almost every conceivable form, all streaming along shore to the eastward. In a cove west of the Point at least two-hundred were collected in a bed ~~of~~ on the water. I watched them for a long time through a powerful telescope; with the exception of a single pair of O.americana all were of this species, the males very beautiful in their full breeding plumage. Again I distinctly saw them drink salt water, elevating the bill almost vertically at each sip. The peculiar murmuring note seems to be uttered by this species as well as the Common Scoter for it came incessantly from this flock. I noticed that these Coots always opened their wings when they dove which they did with an irregular splash. They are much more graceful than either of the other species when swimming. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 17. A steady flight during the forenoon. Shot several. The male is a beautiful bird when freshly killed, its bill variagated with vivid blood red shading into carmine, white, and a large blotch of glossy black; the feet are very deep carmine and black. These birds are generally shy of a boat but a flock will occasionally come within a long range. They are extremely tenacious of life and we heard the shot strike many that did not fall. Others dropped their feet at the report and leaving the flock settled on the water, but when approached they usually dove so persistently that we rarely secured them. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

Pelionetta perspicillata.

1876.

(Apr.18) I repeatedly heard this species utter a short que, que, quac when flying. The flight of all threespecies of Coots is identical. Any of them will easily overtake and pass the Brant, quickly leaving the latter far behind. A flock presents a very pretty appearance as it approaches swiftly over the sea, at times flying so low it is lost to view behind each swell (Point Lepreaux, N.B.).

" 18. A very heavy flight beginning at sunrise and ceasing ay 1 P.M. Most of the flocks containing a few Melanetta velvetina. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 19. About half of the numerous Coots that passed to-day were of this species, most of the remainder being Velvet Scoters. We saw one immense flock on the water, at least five hundred floating in clusters with scattering ones between, the whole covering an acre or more of surface. A flock of these Ducks approaching swiftly over the sea presents a very beautiful sight, the heads of the males appearing snow white. The discrepency in in the sexes among this and the other two species of Coots here is remarkable; flocks of twenty or more are frequently composed entirely of males and it is rare to see more than two or three females in the largest flock. Possibly the females migrate later than the males, but this cannot be true of the Common Scoter, for its migration is almost at an end. To-day ten of these Ducks strung out in a long line passed within long range; I aimed about twelve feet ahead of the leader and wounded the last but one in the file. It flew some distance then dropped in the water, when the others came back and alighted with it. As we approached all flew except a male, evidently the mate of the wounded female. The latter at length dove and, although the water was as smooth as glass, we did not see it again. Where it went to is a mystery, for these birds, so far as I have observed, never swim with only the bill above water as it the habit of some of the fresh-water Ducks when wounded. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

May 16. Rather less numerous than either of the allied species in a bed of several thousands Coots congregated just outside the surf at Chatham, Mass. (See Obs.under Oedemia americana).

Erismatura rubida.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.
Oct. 16.$ Shot a young bird in a small pond-hole encircled by button bushes in the Brickyard Swamp, Cambridge. He dove at the first shot and raising only the top of his head above water watched me while I reloaded.

1868.

Sept.30. Just as the day was breaking a flock of at least thirty of these birds came into Fresh Pond and, after circling around it several times, I was obliged to pull on to them without the slightest caution in order to get the first shot. After discharging both barrels at them as only two or three birds flew I supposed that the remainder must be all wounded and pulled into the midst of them when I soon discovered my mistake for they began to scatter in all directions although many allowed me to get within ten feet before leaving the water. We killed the greater part of this flock before the survivers would leave the pond. I noticed only one old bird in the whole number.

Oct. 1. Shot several out of a large flock that came into Fresh Pond.

" 13. Two young birds hsot on Fresh Pond this morning; the last few nights have been cold which probably started them along.

" 14. Two shot on Fresh Pond this morning.

" 19. Shot ~~a number~~ Two from a flock of about a dozen that came into Fresh Pond this morning. They were very shy but as they would not leave the pond most of them were killed.

" 23. Numbers on Fresh Pond, but they were so shy that it was impossible to get within shot of them.

" 26. Three on Fresh Pond.

" 28. Chased a flock of five about Fresh Pond all the afternoon. They were so shy that I shot only two of them, although they could not be forced to leave the pond.

" 27. Shot one on Fresh Pond this morning just as it was getting light. I was attracted to him by his loud harsh ~~notes~~ cries which ~~were~~ entirely different from the "quack" of the Black Duck or the cry of any other species with which I am acquainted.

" 30. One shot on Fresh Pond.

Nov. 7. Shot one this monning on Sherman's Pond, Waltham. The pair to which this bird belongs have lived on this pond nearly all the autumn. For an hour or two in the morning they fed near the shore, diving where the water was about six feet deep, but during the greater part of the day remained in the middle sitting close together, and not changing their position for hours at a time.

Erismatura rubida

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass

(Nov.16) Saw two on Smith's Pond, Arlington.

" 19. Shot an adult male to-day, the last of the season.

Dec. 4. Saw to-day, on Fresh Pond, swimming in an opening in the ice a small Duck, which as far as I could make out through my glass, was a young bird of this species.

Observations: The Rudy Ducks have been veryabundant on Fresh Pond this autumn but scarce on Spy and Smith's Ponds where they usually shoot large numbers of them. In the first part of the season they were tame and unsuspicious, but those that came later were shy. When a flock comes into the pond, if they are fired at from a distance and missed, they generally leave at once, but if one or more are killed the survivors remain in the pond during the remainder of the day. They rise with difficulty, owing to the small size of their wings, but when fairly underway fly with wonderful swiftness, skimming along close to the surface of the water and seldom circling before alighting as many Ducks are wont to do, although when very shy I have occasionally seen them circle about high in the air for sometime, and afterwards descend to the water again. When they strike the water they close their wings and the weight of their heavy bodies causes them to shoot over the surface for several yards. They sit rather low on the water and swim with extreme rapidity, indeed it is very hard to overtake them unless you have a light boat.

When feeding, if two or three are together, one will remain on the surface a few moments after the other has disappeared, in order to make sure that all is right, and then, lowering his head, he disappears with the quickness of thought. Upon shooting one that had just come up from one of these dives I have frequently found its bill full of a species of fresh water shripm, about an inch and a half long, and of a bright scarlet color. They very seldom take to diving when pursued in a boat unless they are wounded, although when a flock is scattered or when a single bird is hard pressed they will try diving. In a short time they will become very expert at it, showing only a small portion of the head above the surface.

1869.

Oct. 9. Five shot on Fresh Pond this morning.

" 14. Saw a flock of about a dozen on Fresh Pond.

" 19. ~~Took two~~ Shot on Fresh Pond this morning.

Erismatura rubida.

1870.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Oct. 4. A single bird taken on Fresh Pond. Easterly storm yesterday.

Nov. 15. Shot the last to-day. They have been rather scarce on Fresh Pond this autumn. Ve y few were seen in October although we had much frosty weather, but November 2d, 3, 4, and 5, there were shot respectively each morning eight, two, one and eight. The weather was not so cold as some we have had and there was no apparent cause for this flight. They seemed much tamer than usual this autumn and not a single bird that alighted on Fresh Pond escaped. On one occasion I heard one utter a noise like the squeaking of a rusty hinge. In diving they made use of their wings as well as their feet, as I proved by watching a wounded bird. They bleed very very freely when wounded.

Dec. 28. Several dozens in Boston Market said to have been shot on Cape Cod a few days since.

1871.

Oct. 21. A single bird was taken on Fresh Pond. Saw them in the market from the western part of the state as early as October 1.

" 23. Six were shot on Fresh Pond, the last; have been usually scarce this fall.

1881.

Oct. 13. Shot a young male on Concord River. He was floating near the middle of the stream and was very tame. Skin entirely free from fat; flesh very tender, dark red in color, and having a strong musky odor.

" 27. Lamb killed twelve in a single morning on Fresh Pond lately.

Erismatura rubida.

Maine (Lake [illegible]ba[illegible]og).

1879.
ay 25. Mrs.Bartlet showed me a duck which she said was killed on the Lake [illegible]st [illegible].

1880.
ay 23. Mr.Wormell tells me that his party once found a flock of eight on Lake [illegible]ebago.

1882. One shot by George Hayward October 17. I saw the bird next day. Two were also shot by the [illegible] party about the 20th and one by C.[illegible].Batchelder October [illegible].

Mergus americanus.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.
~~Oct. 29.~~ Nov. 22. A flock of about thirty came into Fresh Pond about sunrise, alighting near the middle. Two that had been feeding near shore swam out and brought the strangers back with them. The flock scattered over a considerable space along the rocky shore near the Tudor boat-house, some taking to the land to preem their plumage, others half-swimming hafl-wading in the shallow water, many diving for fish, and a few well out in the pond cruising about with heads erect on the lookout for danger.

I crept up behind the boat-house and waiting a moment until three birds came together, fired, killing two and wounding the third.

When the first alighted in the pond they struck the water in a long line their heavy bodies sending the spray several feet into the air. At my shot they immediately flew, splashing along the surface for several yards before they got fairly clear of it.

1868.
Dec. 8. An adult male and a female or young on Fresh Pond.

1869.
Apr. 8. Several in adult plumage on Concord River.

1871.
Mar. 23. Abundant on Concord River. By covering our boat with pine bows we easily paddled within shot. One which I killed had just swallowed two pickerel, one of which weighed about one quarter of a pound. The stomachs of others were filled with fish bones.

1872.

Jan. & Feb. A few seen in Boston market.

Mar. 30. A flock fishing in the river at Concord.

Apr. 3. Three on Concord River in company with two Black Ducks; we tried to approach them in a brushed boat when the Black Ducks gave the alarm.

" 9. Several flocks on the flooded meadows of Concord River. Paddled within gun-shot of two flocks by brushing our boat, and killed five specimens. These Sheldrake were feeding on the flooded meadows where the water was about two feet deep; those killed contained fish several inches long, mostly shiners. Their notes were a harsh croak, and a long rolling guttural cry. The latter, I think uttered only by the males, could be heard at an extraordinary distance. They did not seem to be paired. The males were in excess of the females. They were very shy rising a quarter of a mile ahead if the exposed side of our boat turned towards them. We noticed that when part of the flock were alarmed at anything, and took wing, the remainder did not start or show even much suspicion unless the object was visible to them also.

Mergus americanus.

1873.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Aug. 1. Five young birds about half grown were shot in the Tyler Cove.

Sept.18. George Hayward, one of the trappers, tells me that Sheldrake regularly winter here in small numbers, finding rapids where the water does not freeze.

1876.

June 8. A pair flying about the stubs near the mouth of Rapid River.

1879.

June 6. George Hayward tells me that this species sits very closely. He once saw a female enter a hole in a tall dead stub. As the tree could not be safely climbed he cut it down. The incessant blows of the axe did not start the bird and it was not until the stub came crashing down that she came out. She was in some way injured by the fall and he caught her.

" 15. Sheldrake. Alva Coolidge tells me that he was found the eggs of this duck in a cavity which ascends the foot from the entrance hole.

1880.

May 2?. A beautiful adult male flying over B Meadows.

Sept.16. A large flock in the Androscoggin near Leonard's Pond, splashing about in the water and chasing one another. My guide drove them past me. They came very swiftly, flying before the north-west wind. I dropped two one of which dove and did not again appear; the other started down river for the Lake, running on the surface as the ducks do when moulting and going at a tremendous pace; it was absolutely useless to chase him.

1881.

May 19. An adult male given me in the flesh. Irides dark but reddish-hazel; bill black along the ridge of culmen dull red on the sides; tarsi and toes dull coral-red; webs brownish-orange; breast and under-parts beautiful rich salmon when freshly killed, fading rapidly afterwards. Alva tells me that the plumage of the male Sheldrake fades as soon as the eggs are laid; he does not consider the drake [illegible] early as [illegible] are as they are early in the season.

" 19. Set A-11. Nest in hollow pine stump standing in the water. The hole descended about ten feet and the eggs, lying on rotten wood, were surrounded by the usual down. A new dam at the Outlet has brought the water of this Lake about three inches above its highest previous level. The bird apparently did not calculate on this, for the nest was flooded and the eggs just covered with water; she was sitting on them, however, and the

Mergus americanus.

1881.

Maine (Lake [illegible]).

(May 19) water was warm. This nest had evidently been occupied in former years, for someone had chopped a hole in the side of the stub on a level with it and pinned a chip over the opening. By removing this chip my guide looked directly in on the bird. She made a low growling noise but refused to move till he poked her, when she scrambled up the hollow trunk and flew from the open top. He shot her but she was so wet and struggled that he did not bring her in. He says her breast was bare in places and her legs much worn. There was a projecting knot in the stump just half way up which so narrowed the passage that the bird could hardly squeeze by, and this knot was covered with her feathers. The eggs all contained small embryos; they had very kably thin shells for eggs of such large size much thinner than those of either the Whistler or Hooded Merganser. This nest was at the head of the Narrows on Richardson Lake.

1882.

Oct.8-22. Hundreds around every rocky cove in the Lake. Towards the close of my stay they were more abundant than any other Duck.

1883.

Oct.10. Saw [illegible] Lake.

Mergus americanus.

1879.
Sept. 6. A flock of eleven on Moxie Pond, the young barely able to fly; we were told that they bred here every year. (Forks of the Kennebec, Maine).

Mergus serrator.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1866.
Dec. 29. Saw an adult male on Fresh Pond. I got very near it and saw it distinctly. It was alove swimming close in shore under the hemlock hill. I shot at it, when it dove, afterwards rising and flying out.

Mergus serrator.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1872.
June 8. Saw a pair of Sheldrakes in 3 Meadows which I was very sure were of this species. They are said to breed here.

1881.
May 23. Two female Sheldrake flying low down close near our boat off the Oil Rock. They were killed all, and Alva Coolidge insists that they were not Gooseekers. I think they may have been this species.

1883.
Oct. 19. Shot a single bird, a young male, near the mouth of Black Cove. Iris brown, mottled, deepening in that towards the pupil. Fat and tender and easily skinned.

Mergus serrator.

1872.
Jan 2. A female bought in Boston market has blotches of black coming about the head and neck.

1875.
Nov. 22. A few at the mouth of Ipswich river.

1876.

Apr. 13. Passing all day in flocks containing rarely over twenty individuals. They string out more than most other sea fowl and also fly much higher above the surface of the ocean (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" " Several immense flocks passed to-day (Pt.Lepreaux?N. B.).

Apr. 14. They seldom alight near the Point, indeed I have seen none on the water so far (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 15. A good many passing to-day; they invariably fly much higher than any other Water-fowl, and usually in single file (Pt.Lepreaux, N.B.).

" 16. Three alighted in the Cove west of the Point here I watched them for a long time through a powerful glass. They dive like Loons, giving a forward leap so that the whole body nearly cleared the surface, and leaving only a faint ring on the water where they disappared. One of them ccaught what looked like a small eel and apparently had much trouble in swallowing it, swimming rapidly about and shaking it violently in his bill. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" 18. Their flight is always about the height of twenty yards above the water and very swift, the strokes of the wings exceedingly rapid. (Point Lepreaux, N.B.).

May 6. Numbers (Chatham, Mass.).

" 17. Saw many flying, as they usually do here, in large loose flocks arranged without any apparent order of system. (Chatham,Mass.).

Lophodytes cucullatus.

1867.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Nov. 19. Shot one just at dusk from a flock of six or seven swimming within a few yards of the shore under the shelter of an ice house.

Dec. 4. Saw four on Fresh Pond for the last time this year. As they have been rather plenty there this autumn I have had abundant opportunities of watching their habits and the following is the result of my observations. The Hooded Merganser makes its appearance here as soon as the night sets- begin to be cold and the ice to form around the edges of the larger ponds, and remain till the water is entirely covered with ice. They usually fly at the height of about fifteen yards and when in a large flock are continually changing their positions, now flying in a broad extended line, and now in an irregular body. When on the water they swim lightly and gracefully but not nearly as fast as some other Ducks; they are so vigilent that it is almost impossible to approach within gun shot of them; indeed they almost always fly the moment that they perceive you even if you are far out of range. If at all apprehensive of danger they they keeping cruising about with their heads raised but if everything remains quiet in their vicinity they soon return to their former occupation of diving in search of food; when two or three are feeding together, first one disappears with the quickness of thought, then another and another until all are beneath the surface but they soon emerge in nearly the same place and after swimming a short distance together, dive again. They invariably alight near the shore--that is to say within a few rods of it--and it is very rare to find them swimming at any distance from it, but they will sometimes swim out into deep water when they perceive a team coming. They appear to affect equally gravelly and muddy bottoms and in general feed where the water is about eight feet deep; but on one occasion I saw four of them walking about on the shore where there was only an inch or so of water. They rise with some difficulty striking the water vigorously with their feet, and proceed some distance before they attain any elevation but when once fairly under way fly with wonderful rapidity every now and then inclining to the left or right much in the manner of the Common Snipe, and indeed their flight closely resembles that of this bird except that the wings are quivered as with most Ducks. They usually move like most ducks, but I have seen them, where three or four were following each other over the still water of a sheltered cove, nod their heads exactly in the manner of the Common American Coot.

1868.

Aug. 11. Shot a young female near Block Island. It was following the course of the brook and flying low down.

Lophodytes cucullatus.

1869.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Nov. 11. Shot one on Fresh Pond, sculling up to it in an open boat.

" 27. One on Fresh Pond.

1870.

Nov. 11. One on Fresh Pond.

" 29. For the past two weeks they have been frequently seen in Fresh Pond usually in small flocks or two or three together. They fish here in shallow water and are rather shy of any one on shore but easily approached in a boat. Unless wounded they never attempt to a escape by diving, but invariably fly, leaving the water with some difficulty. They are exceedingly restless; rarely feeding long in one place, even when undisturbed.

1871.

Oct. 17. One shot on Fresh Pond.

Nov. 27. A flock of about thirty flying over Fresh Pond.

1876.

Mar. 23. Two small Ducks on ConcordRiver were apparently of this species.

1880.

Oct. 20. Shot a young male on Concord River near Ball's Hill. It was rather fat and exceedingly tought and hard to skin.

" 29. One in Fairhaven Bay; very shy:

Lophodytes cucullatus.

1873.

Maine (Lake Sebago).

June -- The commonest Duck here this year. The Wood Duck, common last season, is rare this.

Aug. 2. Saw probably fifty on the Androscoggin Rivers.

" 27. Saw large numbers in Leonard's Pond near the Outlet.

" 30. Two large flocks in the pond below our house. These Ducks when alarmed from this pond invariably fly out along the narrow creek which connects it with the River, and so shoot only by driving that most this point.

Sept. 8. Saw several on Richardson Pond.

" 11. Went to the Narrows this evening, to shoot these birds. They fly from the lower part of the Lake to the Outlet every evening, roosting there and returning in the morning. The flight this evening, began at 6.15, and covering the succeeding half hour. Their allowed flock in rapid succession.

1874.

Aug. 17. Saw about fifty in Leonard's Pond.

1876.

June 8. While looking for Duck's nests at the Outlet I discovered a promising-looking hole and rapping on the spot struck the tree with the handle of my paddle. At the first blow a vigorous scratching sound began inside, and the next moment a Duck's head appeared in the opening; then, after a short struggle, her toes lapped over the lower edge and she launched into the air. I shot at her as she came off and marking her downward flight followed and finally found her floating dead on the water. Returning to the stump I took the axe and climb it when, to my surprise, shot or seven cents was heard and a second Duck appeared, I fired but unfortunately failed to kill it. Feeling sure of a set of eggs my guide and I made ascent but upon reaching the hole and thrusting in his arm he found only emptyness or, more literally, a large cavity in the stump covered with damp rotten wood. A subsequent examination of the bird showed that it had evidently been laid for a week or ten days. The hole, which evidently had been selected as a nesting place, was a natural cavity entering the side of the tree at the point of a limb about fifteen feet above the water and descending about three feet. The entrance had a diameter of about ten inches. Whether the second bird was a male or not is doubtful. It certainly looked nearly like the first both as it came out and as it flew off.

Lophodytes cucullatus.

188[illegible].

Maine (Lake [illegible]).

May 2[illegible]. A pair on [illegible] Meadows.

" 25. Set B-8. Some of the eggs [illegible] about three days; the remainder fresh. Cavity [illegible] in a decayed elm. The entrance, at [illegible] where a limb had broken off, was not wider than a man's fist; the cavity, formed by decay, descended [illegible] about three feet; the nest was partially covered by the bird's down, of which the nest was wholly composed. Their shells were so thick and hard that they were drilled only with great difficulty; yolk pale orange. We found this nest by seeing the female enter it. She came flying in from the lake and circled about the tree several times, quilling with her long-less wings, then alighted on the edge of the hole and crawled in with some difficulty. Not a count of pounding with an axe at the base of the tree sufficed to start her out, but when we pried open to find it she at once emerged from the hole [illegible] covered. Later on the return we [illegible] circled [illegible] times about the tree, but refused to enter the hole in the [illegible] had chopped out. This nest was about thirty-five feet above the water; the stub, a very rotten one, stood within [illegible] others in a cove on the [illegible] shore near the Hayward farm.

June 11. A female with a brood of six young swimming in the grass near shore. As we approached, the old bird paddled off [illegible] along the surface uttering a [illegible] croak. The young, scattered in all directions, dived so adroitly that we could not catch any of them. They probably put up only the bill and that beneath some floating water plant, for each one that we pursued was soon lost sight of.

" 24. Brood of seven young accompanied by the mother, near the mouth of Cambridge River. Six of the ducklings dove so adroitly that it was impossible to catch them, but the seventh had in some way broken one of its legs which was set in a stiff position impeding its movements so that it was easily secured.

Sept. 3. Six in a close bunch hurling over the pond in the meadow from the direction of Cambridge River in the evening twilight.

" 9. A flock in Leonard's Pond, and a single bird in the Amoroscoggin twice dived exactly like a Grebe.

1881.

May 14. Shot an adult male which, just flying ahead of the female, passed over my head, followed the channel at the base of B Point. Irides greenish-yellow; bill black; roof of mouth flesh color; [illegible] black stripe; tarsi [illegible] sky with brownish-yellow on inner surface.

Lophodytes cucullatus.

1881.

Maine (Lake [illegible]).

(May 18) A pair flying together, the [illegible] leading, the drake a beauty closely followed by the duck (Outlet).

1882.

Oct. 8-22 George Hayward [illegible]. October 1[illegible]. I saw [illegible].

Graculus carbo.

1876.
Apr.14. Five passed the point to-day the white patches on the throat and flanks showing plainly. (Point Lepreaux, N.B.).

Graculus dilophus.

1874.

Nov. 24. A y oung bird shot while flying over Eagle Hill, Ipswic .

1876.

Apr. 12. Many flying about near Point Lepreaux, N.B. all high in air.

" 13. Several large flocks flying about. They resemble Brant on wing but fly differently (Point Lepreaux, N.B.).

" 14. A heavy flight of migrants passing northward to-day (Point Lepreaux, N.B.)!

" 18. Numbers flying about as usual. Their flight, ordinarily, is exactly like that of a Loon, from which they can be readily distinguished, however, by the thicker neck and darker coloring. Sometimes they sail in a half circle or mount straight upward, giving a dozen or more quick beats of the wing like a Nighthawk rising to Boom. Frequently one will thus rise suddenly from a flock passing steadily along. Their alledged resemblance t Brant does not strike me; the form of a large flock, however, is nearly the same as that of a flock of Brant, They flap their ings different and their shape is radically different. (Point Lepreaux, N.B.).

Rhynchops nigra.

1874.
July 7. The fishermen say that the Black Skimmer used to breed abundantly on the Muskegat. They described the bird accurately and call it the Sheerwater.

Larus glaucus.

1876.

Apr. 10. Saw an immature bird as we were pass ing Cape Elizabeth, near Portland, Maine.

" 11. Among some thirty large Gulls fishing close to the wharf at Eastport, Maine, were several of this species, which with Larus leucopterus, made up about one-quarter of the total number, the remaining three-quarters being Herring Gulls. Several also followed the steamer all the way from Mt.Desert, keeping steadily along side in its wake, often coming very near and greedily picking up any kind of fish which we threw overboard for them. They seemed to me lighter and more graceful on the wing than the Herring Gulls but the difference in size between the two species was only appreciable when the birds were very near.

Larus leucopterus?

Middlesex County, Mass.

1866.
Dec. 29. Saw a small, pure white Gull on Fresh Pond which I took to be this species. It came very near me and I saw distinctly that its primaries were pure white.

[illegible]

Larus leucopterus.

1876.
Apr. 11. Among a flock of some thirty large Gulls in Eastport Harbor, Maine, this species and L.glaucus were about equally represented, the two together perhaps forming one-quarter of the total number, the remaining three-quarters being Herring Gulls. This species as well as the Glaucus seemed to be lighter and more graceful on the wing than the Herring Gull. The difference in size between the three was only appreciable when the birds came very near. Seve al of them followed the steamer all the way from Mt.Desert.

Larus marinus.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.
Nov. 19. Several on Fresh Pond with Herring Gulls.

1870.
Dec. 26. A pair of adults chasing a Herring Gull.

Larus marinus.

1874.

Nov. 20. Near the mouth of Ipswich River numbers of these Gulls, all immature birds were flying about. They were readily distingusihable from the ~~HerringGull~~ Herring Gulls by their large size and the conspicuous black bar on the tail. They uttered a cry which somewhat resembled that of the Red-tailed Hawk and chased the Herring Gulls whenever the latter secured food.

Mar. 12. Four received from Grand Menan. Easily skinned; ~~unwtfat~~ fat; in this respect differing from L. argentatus; skin covered with a dense coat of down, almost as impenetrable as felt.

1875.

Nov. 22. Several at the mouth of Ipswich River.

1876.

May 6. Numerous at Chatham, Mass., all immature birds.

Larus argentatus.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1867.

Nov. 20. Four on Fresh Pond; I watched them till it became so dark that I could see them no longer. I believe they pass the night there but they usually start for the sea long before dark.

1868.

Mar. 19. One flying over Fresh Pond which is now open.

Apr. 18. About twenty on Fresh Pond.

Oct. 24. One on Fresh Pond to-day the first this autumn.

Nov. 15. The Gulls now visit Fresh Pond regularly evern morning, and will continue to do so till the water freezes They ar ive just as the sun is rising, and remain all day unless they are driven out, swimming about in the middle if it is calm; if the wind blows hard they pass most of the day on wing. They are very shy and if a boat puts off from the shore they rise in wide circles, frequently until they are beyond the reach of vision, and disappear.

Dec. 8 Not a young bird on Fresh Pond; he was sweeping along close to the water.

1869.

Apr. 15. They have been very abundant on Fresh Pond all this spring. Saw the last to-day.

Dec. -- Common on Fresh Pond during this month.

1870.

Jan. 23. Upwards of one hundred sitting in a close body on the Ice at Fresh Pond.

Mar. 10. Theyb have been abundant throughout the winter and still continue so.

Apr. 7. Still abundant.

" 11. Saw several.

Nov.& Dec. The fly to Fresh Pond from the sea every morning.

1871.

Jan. 4. Saw several acres of Gulls floating on the sea a few hundred yards out (Chelsea Beach).

Feb. 6. The ice having been removed from a small portion of Fresh Pond principly in one of the coves the Gulls found it out directly and now come up from the bay every morning.

Larus argentatus.

1871.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Mar.10) Still frequent Fresh Pond in large flocks. Saw several to-day sail against an exceedingly strong wind for several hundred yards without a single flap of the wing, and very swiftly.

Apr. 7. Saw several on Fresh Pond.

" 27. One was seen on Fresh Pond (H.Russell).

" 29. Three were seen on Fresh Pond (H.Russell).

Nov. 9. Went down in the harbor among the shipping for Gulls where we found them comparatively unsuspicious. After shooting down one others came to the rescue till we killed four. This, however, was the only occasion, before or since, when I have known this occur.

1872.

Jan. 22. Saw one sail down to the ice from a considerable height in a beautiful sweep, drop its feet, and alight, closing its wings without a single flap.

Feb. 13. They resort to the basin whenever the ice breaks up, especially at high tide. This morning several hundred were fishing there for the garbage which forms their chief food. Sitting on the ice among a small group of these Gulls were several Crows with which they seemed to be perpetually quarrelling, running at them with half open wings in a curious manner. In the air, however, the Crows had rather the better of it, chasing the Gulls about on every opportunity. The Herring Gulls fish in the following manner: Flying at the height of perhaps thirty feet above the water they course gracefully about until they discover something in the water beneath when they poise for a moment over the spot, flapping their wings quickly; then with a graceful sweep, drop to the surface beneath, and as they pick up the morsel with the bill, drop their feet into the water trailing them along the surface for a few yards before they rise. While poising they occasionally shake themselves violently with a single quick vertical flap of the wings.

" 23. R.Deane saw them repeatedly take up mussel shells high into the air and drop them on the beach to break them, following them immediately down and eating the exposed contents (Revere Beach).

Larus agentatus.

1874

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Aug. 12. Coming down the Lake I saw a large bird alight on a rock in shore; upon running the boat near him, he flapped his wings and uttered a squealing cry, when I saw that it was a young Herring Gull, full grown and in brown plumage. I was about to shoot him when I noticed that he was feeding from a tin dipper. Upon making inquiries I found he had been taken from the nest and reared.

" 27. Saw two adult birds alight on the top of an immense dead pine where they sat togetherfor sometime, their snowy plumage brought out in strong relief against a dark thunder cloud rising in the west.

1879.
May 26. A beautiful adult drifting before a furious gale on the Lake.

1880
June 15. Set 0-2. Nest, a large bulky structure of moss, placed on the top of a small rock about four feet square and elevated only a few feet above the water in B Pond; the eggs on the point of hatching. Two young a few days old seen on another rock. For years two pairs of Herring Gulls have bred regularly on this pond although their eggs are almost invariably taken.

1881.
May 18. A fine adult at the Middle Dam, flying up the River.

Larus argentatus.

1874.
June 18. One in immature plumage (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

1875.

July 20. About one hundred, all immature birds, on Green Islands, near Portland, Maine.

Sept 22. Numbers at Smith's Point both adult and young. (Nantucket).

" 24. Numbers fishing in the harbor. (Nantucket).

Nov. 22. Large n umbers at the mouth of Ipswich River.

1876.

Apr. 11. About twenty in the harbor at Eastport, Maine, fishing close to the wharfs. At Point Lepreaux this evening they were making a great outcry on the water as late as 10 P.M. calling loudly and incessantly.

" 14. A heavy flight of these Gulls migrating eastward along the coast during the afternoon. (Point Lepreaux N.B)

May. 6. Abundant at Chatham, Mass., most of those seen being immature birds.

" " One brought down with a broken wing bit savagely, and like a snapping turtle hung on to anythink that was placed within its reach, even allowing itsef to be thus lifted from the ground. (Chatham, Mass.).

" 7. Shot three from a Brant Box. My boatman decoyed them within range by using a pair of Gull's wings which he skillfully opened and shut by compressing and relasing the muscles; the effect being that of a gull flapping its wings on a sand bar. (Chatham, Mass.).

1881.
Mar. 26. Crossing the East Boston Ferry on my way to Revere Beach, I saw hundreds of these birds and wondered if they spent the night in the harbor. T is was definitely settled a few hours later. At Revere Beach during the half hour preceding sunset I saw them arriving in a continuous stream and settling on the water. They flew low over the sea and all from the direction of Boston of course following the coast line. By sunset there must have been nearly a thousand collected in a vast bed about midway between Nahant and Revere Beach. This bed was certainly half a mile in length the birds floating in about four or five parallel lines. On the dark blue sea it looked like a great bank of snow.

Larus delewarensis.

1875.
Sept.24. One in the harbor at Nantucket.

Larus atricilla.

1870.

July 1. About twenty-five pairs breeding on the island. Nest quite large and bulky, but withall neat and even, composed of dried grasses arranged in circular form, placed usually in the beds of tall rank beech grass, that grew upon one side of the island; some, however, were found on the ivy ridges, among the Terns, but never any on the bare sand, or the sea beach. Number of eggs varied from one to three (Muskegat).

" 1-4. About twenty-five pairs breeding on Muskegat. Nests mostly in beds of tall, rank beech-grass on the west end of the island, some, however, in the stunted ivy with those of the Terns; all neatly constructed of dry grass circularly arranged. Eggs from one to three. All the birds seen were in perfect adult plumage. When a nest was approached the pair to which it belonged would come overhead sailing about just out of gunshot in perfect silence. When we were within twenty yards of less, however, they would burst out into their shrill laughter which was immediately taken up by others all over the island. These outbursts were an infalable guide to the vicinity of the nest, for they were never uttered till we were close to the latter. The flight of these Gulls is graceful and beautiful. They would often sail in pairs at a high elevation, reminding me of eagles. They were very shy but when one was killed its ame and sometimes several others would hover over it. Their usual call-note is a loud ha-ha. Their shrill laughter is both unique and startling. We never saw them fishing near the island but they frequently alighted on the sand bar in company with Terns. The latter seemed to regard them with dislike always chasing them while flying.

1874.

June 18 About a dozen on a sand bar in company with Terns. They proved shy, rising high into the air and sailing in circles, uttering the usual wild laughing chorus. (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

" 29. Several flying about with the Terns near the mouth of the Harbor. (Nantucket).

July 7. During a visit to Muskegat saw only three specimens but found a nest containing three eggs. (Nantucket).

"1875.

July 20. About twenty pairs breeding on Green Island, Casco Bay, Maine. After I had killed several of their number, the remainder collected into a loose body and breasting the strong wind with just sufficient flapping to keep their position, remained in the air over one spot during the rest of the afternoon, occasionally bursting out into their wild laughing cry. Many paths and little open-

Larus atricilla.

1875.

(July 20).ings were trampled down in the tall grass by these little birds, but no nests were found. The Gulls here seemed to be on perfectly good terms with the Terns which on Muskegat are incessantly harassing them.

Sept. 22. Saw one at Smith's Point. (Nantucket).

Larus philadelphia.

1874.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Aug. 17. A flock of about a dozen in the middle of the Lake in company with Herring Gulls.

" 22. Saw a pair on the Lake.

Larus philadelphia.

1870.
July 11. A small flock at Ipswich, Mass. Shy .

1875.
Nov. 8. Received four freshly killed specimens from Nantucket.

1876.
May 17. A flock of about twenty on a sand spit (Chatham, Mass.)

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.
Aug. -- Seen daily during the last two weeks of August, flying southward over the sea about a mile off shore. They flew in a nearly straight course and very steadily, seldom turning aside or stopping. In stormy weather they pass closer in and sometimes alighted on the beach.

Xema sabinei.

1875.
Feb. 7. Secured a specimen from this rare Gull from Mr. Diamond of Brookline, who shot the bird in Boston Harbor September 1874. It was sitting on a mass of floating seaweed and was very tame, inasmuch as the sailing party passed within a few rods of it before it was discovered. It was holding a small crab-apple in it bill. When shot at and wing-broken it made its way off along the surface with such speed that it was with difficulty secured.

Sterna caspia.

1871.
Sept. 9. Several seen fishing just outside the breakers, perhaps a dozen in all. A wing-broken individual was caught on the Beach. (Ipswich).

1873.
Nov. 22. Arthur Smith has an adult which he shot at Bear's Head, New Hampshire, early in September 1873.

1875.

Aug. 23. A flock of about a dozen large Terns flying high in air over Long Island , Boston Harbor, were probably of this species. They uttered at intervals a single loud harsh cry somewhat like the honk of a Goose.

Sept.24. A flock of five or six came into the Harbor at Nantucket and fished sometime near a Point. They alighted on deep water repeatedly swimming about for several minutes at a time. Their flight and plunging was precisely similar to that of the smaller species. They uttered a raucous honk somewhat like one of the notes of the Roseate Tern but much louder and hoarser.

1876.

May 6. Several small flocks at Chatham, Mass. Some apart by themselves, others among Herring Gulls. They sat on the sand bars exactly like the smaller Terns which they ot herwise resemble but I think their flight is more rapid that than of any species which I snow.

" 7. Saw several to-day (Chatham,Mass.).

" 16. Saw several (Chatham,Mass.).

Sept. 9 Purdie had one in the flesh from Hingham, Boston Harbor. It was a young bird.

Sterna maxima.

1874.
July 1. Shot a pair in the harbor. They were in company with Roseate Tern for which we mistook them. The The female had evidently just finished laying and had the incubating spot on the breast well-developed . Their notes seemed similar to those of the Roseate Tern. Both birds fell wounded and bit fiercely when seized raising the long occipital feathers into a crest. They had black tarsi and webs, the under surface of the latter mottled with yellow. (Nantucket.).

Sterna hirundo.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Sept.11. One on Spy Pond circling about over the water; when it caught a fish it invariably carried it a few yards before swallowing it.

" 14. One shot on Fresh Pond.

Sterna hirundo.

1873.

[illegible] (Lake [illegible]).

Sept. 15. Shot two young birds [illegible] 0 [illegible].

Sterna hirunda.

1867.
Sept.2-7. Abundant fishing in the bay during the day and in the afternoon leaving for the southward in flocks of five to thirty (Plymouth, Mass.).

1870.
June 29-
July 2. Breeding on Muskegat in vast nu mbers with S.macrura and S.paradisea. Multitudes were continually in sight hovering over their eggs or descending to them, scaling about close over the ground like Swallows,or plunging into the sea for figh. They were very shy, invariably rising three or four hundred yards ahead, and hovering above us just out of range, keeping up a deafening clamour. If one was shot the others instantly became silent and gliding down to the fallen bird from all sides on set wings, poised a few feet above it redoubling their clamor. The more birds killed the more excited and enraged the survivers became. If one were missed or slightly wounded, they would at once disperse or scale off with it. On the Short-eared Owls they waged perpetual war, following them in perfect clouds whenever they appeared on the Island. Their cries are a short hoit, a harsh, peevish ti-arrr, and, when chasing one another, a rolling tr-tr-tr-tee-tee. Theyv are peaceable, seldom quarrelling. Large clusters frequently collected on the bare spaces of sand where they were very shy. Always neat and careful of their plumage they invariably elevated their tails in walking over the wet sand. Even the plumage of the sitting birds was beautifully clean and free from stain. We could distinguish this species from the Arctic Terns only by the color of the bill. It was impossible to estimate the number of birds breeding here but the e must have been many thousand pairs. We found but few eggs containing embryos and not a single young bird.

July 1. Thousands of nests on the island; some large and composed of dry grass or ivy twigs, others merely a slight hollow in the seaweed at high water mark, or in the beach sand. They seemed to prefer, however, the inland ridges where among the stunted ivy they bred in company with S.paradisea and a few of Ch.atricilla. The number of eggs varied from one to three, but the latter seemed the regular number. The nests were usually at least a rod apart, though occasionally nearly touching.(Muskegat Id.).

1874.

June 18. About a hundred on a sand bar near High Ground; they were apparnetly mated, each pair sitting close togethera and also flying together. I saw a number flying about with small fish held crosswise in their bills; they will not breed for sometime,however. When sitting on the sand bars they had a habit of raising their wings over their backs and exposing them to the breeze. (Marston's Mills,Mass.).

(continued from p. 266.)

Sterna hirundo.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1871.

(Aug.30) During a heavy fog a number of these Terns passed through the marsh. One alighted among my Teal decoys (wooden "stools") and was shot.

1872.

Aug. 12. One shot on the Eel Pond.

" 15. Three seen on the Eel Pond.

Sterna hirundo.

1874.

(June 26). A few seen as I was crossing the vineyard Sound, and swam as I approached Nantucket.

" 28. Watched a number fishing along the shore at the base of the Bluffs. Several dove so near me that I could distinctly see them under water; they descended a foot or more below the surface and sometimes swam several feet before emerging. I could not make out whether they used their wings or not. These Terns collect in swams over the shoals of blue-fish, the latter driving small fish to the surface where the birds ~~see them.~~seize them. A flock of one hundred or more Terns hovering over the water, dozens plunging down together within a radius of a few yards, presents a most interesting spectacle. On On the average they seem to catch a fish in about once in four or five plunges. The notes of this species are: a harsh vibrating cry which seems to express anger or impatience, and a soft satisfied chick. (Nantucket).

July 4. A pair fishing in the manner of a Gull, skimming along close to the water, and picking up dead fishes without diving. This species very rarely alights on the water unless wounded. The flocks on the sand bars present a most beautiful appearance, the black of the crown sharply contrasted with the pearly blue of the mantle. The paired birds invariably sit close together, those along the waters edge washing or pruning themselves. When a new comer alights among them he is greeted with loud cries of welcome. I have repeated seen a wounded bird whichb had been taken into the boat, immediately begin pluming and arranging his feathers. This happened to-day with one that had both eyes shot out and a wing broken. The bones of this as well as allied species will bend to almost any extent without breaking. Both sexes incubate, as is shown by the three bare spots on the breast and abdomen. It is difficult to secure good specimens as blood flows profusely from the slightest wound. (Nantucket).

" 4. Flew all day in multitudes close in shore under the Bluffs. They invariably fly to the westward when the wind is in that quarter, and often continue doing so for days during which none were seen to return until the wind changes to the eastward when they pour back in a steady stream. During these flights they rarely stop to fish by the way. When there is but little wing they are flying about in all directions, usually some distance from shore. (Nantucket).

" 7. Breeding by thousands on Muskegat. As I walked over the sand hills clouds were continually rising four or five hundred yards ahead, coming directly towards me and circling about high over head, keeping up a deafening racket. If one were shot hundreds would collect over him in a few minutes. If a gull appeared they would immediately give chase and continue to harass him as long as he remained in the ~~place~~ air. Although the eggers say that that begin to lay about June 15, we did not find a single

Sterna hirundo.

1874.

(July 7). young bird to-day. A marked change has taken place in this colony since my last visit in 1870, and the number of birds at present breeding on the island does not exceed five per cent of that found then. (Nantucket).

" 20. About six pair breeding on Green Islands, Maine; they were very shy (see observations under Arctic Tern).

1875.

Sept.21. A flock of forty or fifty huddled close together on a sand bar, many lying down, a few floating in the shallo water washing themselves. When standing the body is exactly horizontal and the bill nearly so, I shot a number, most of them young which were in the proportion to about one to three adults. Their note is similar to that of the adult but shriller and more querulous. They followed their parents about , squeaking loudly for food. (Nantucket).

" 22. Swarms of them ay Smith's Point, at least five hundred being seen in one flock. (Nantucket).

" 25. Large numbers at Smith's Point. Shot a young bird barely able to fly. The habit of carrying fish about in the bill, is a veru general one; I saw both young and old going it to-day. (Nantucket.).

" 27. On Smith's Island thousands of Terns were sitting along the water's edge. Every now and then they would rise altogether, in a great sn owy cloud and after a few whells settle again (Nantucket).

Oct. 2. Numerous on the Vineyard Sound between Nantucket and Wood's Holl.

1876.

May 16. Shot a pair perched on the poles of some wires They are the first that have been seen here (Chatham,Mass.

Rye Beach, New Hampshire.

1868.

Aug. 29. Saw one to-day, and numbers a few days later flying south over the ocean with Larus philadelphia. On stormy days they often passed through the Eel Pond marsh.

1871.

July 28. One seen on the Eel Pond.

Aug. 26. They are very abundant a mile or more off shore, flying steadily southward in large, loose flocks and small parties, rarely pausing or turning aside to feed.

Sterna hirundo.

1879.

Maine: Lake Umbagog).

June 17. One certain up and down over the reach of lake near the house all the afternoon.

" 18. Shot one and it was in fine plumage. It was apparently not incubating.

1881.

May 19. Saw four in the middle of the Lake near the Outlet.

" 20. Four flying near the Outlet, cruising about in a very characteristic way, gradually working up to the northern end of the Lake, then turning and flying back again until lost in the distance beyond Metallue's Island. In an hour or two they would return. And I have no doubt they took the whole length of the Lake. I saw them sweep down to the surface dozens of times but they never caught anything nor indeed ever touched the water. Judging from the emaciated condition of one shot yesterday on Richardson Lake, and another killed to-day by one of the river drivers (who knocked him off a boom of logs with his pick pole) I have no doubt that they would have soon starved as the pickerel have fairly exterminated all the small fishes that used to swarm in this Lake. The snowy plumage of these essential birds showed to great advantage against the background of dark evergreen woods, and so could follow their white forms long after they had lost shape in the distance or catch a quick glimpse as they turned in their course. The one shot on Richardson Lake was accompanied by two others.

" 23. Shot two owls on the Lake near the Outlet; one sitting on a stump, the other on the end of a floating root. Both were extremely emaciated. The stomach of one was filled with Coleoptera (many of large size) but showed no traces of fish. The craw and gullet of the other was crowded with small black wasps; there were several more wasps of the same species, a few beetles, and an unidentifiable remains of a small fish in the stomach. These birds are probably the survivors of the flock of four seen Saturday; like some female eagles, they stayed in localities of their approved fishing season.

Sterna macrura.

1870.

July 1. Quite scarce as compared with the other two. Bred in a separate colony on a strip of perfectly bare sand. Eggs laid usually in a slight hollow, either an accidental depression , or one s cratched by the birds, but sometimes they were deposited on a perfectly smooth surface. The usual number was three, but in one nest we found four.

" " Common breeding on a bare sand bar apart from the Wilson's and Roseate Terns. Habits precisely like that of the Wilson's Tern. (Muskegat Island,Mass.).

1874.
July 7. A single specimen killed by Maynard on the sand neck at Muskegat.

1875.
July 20. About fifteen pairs breeding on Green Islands, Casko Bay, Maine. I concealed myself in the long grass and in an hour shot six. There were about half as many Wilson's Terns on this Island, the difference in the notes of these species is slight, and although I noticed the cry of each bird particularly before shooting it, I am not sure that I could distinguish it in all cases. I should say,However, that while S.macrura has all the notes of S.hirundo, that they are harsher and more rancaus in the latter species. I could not detect the slightest difference in flight or actions. Neither these nor the Wilson's Terns would hover over one of their kind that fell on land, although thet did so over a Gull that dropped in the water. The Arctic Terns when wounded were decidedly vicious and bit my hand forcibly; this I have never seen the other species do. Both sexes of the Wilson's and the Arctic Tern incubate as is shown by their bare spots. My boatman found a young Tern which I believe to be the Arctic on the Beach at the foot of the Cliffs; Itt kept up a querulous cry of hunger or distress, and when put down appeared unable or unwilling to walk.

Sterna paradisea.

1870.

July 1. Bred in company with L.hirundo, but were not nearly so abundant. Nest perhaps on the average a little more bulky, but otherwise quite similar. Never found them near the beach, however, as with the other birds, but always on the ivy-covered ridges. (Muskegat).

" " Not nearly as numerous as the Wilson's Terns but still abundant. Easily distingusihed from the other species while flying by the long graceful tail, harsh note, and slower, more direct flight; mingled indiscriminately with Wilson's Tern (Muskegat Island,Mass.).

1874.

June 26. Among numerous Terns fishing along the shore below the Bluffs this species was in the proportion of about one to every twenty-five Wilson's Terns. It looks smaller than the Wilson's on the wing, the tail longer, the back pure white. Its wing strokes are also slower and more gracefully performed. Its ordinary note is a soft mellow hew-it slightly like that of Aegialitis semipalmatus (Nantucket).

" 30. Shot eleven and could have killed many more at the mouth of the Harbor. I identified three notes, the commonest a mellow pheu like that of the Purple Martin; the second, hew-it; the third, a noise exactly like that produced by forcibly tearing a strong piece of cotton cloth. This Tern is rather shyer than the Wilson's and as a rule will hover over dead birds of only its own species (Nantucket).

July 6. These with Wilson's Terns flew all day close to the shore literally in swarms, during a heavy north-easter. We killed thirty-three of the present species. (Nantucket.

" 7. Much more abundant on Muskegat than in 1870 , and now representing certainly one half of the colony of Terns breeding there.

" 9. Saw several at Wood's Holl.

"1875:

July 9. Several about the Bay (Marston's Mills, Mass.).

" 20 . About twenty pairs apparently breeding on the larger of the Green Islands near Portland, Maine; they were so shy that I did not succeed in killing one but I am sure of my identification as they repeatedly uttered the cloth-ripping note. They kept apart from the other Terns and sometimes started off together flying in a close flock.

Sterna paradisea.

1875.

(Sept. 22) Among the swarms of Wilson's Terns at Smith's Point, we found a few of this species and shot two young in the beautiful fall plumage. The young uttered a peculiar twittering note, and also a mellow heu of the old bird. Both young and old were exceedingly shy. (Nantucket).

" 25. A few at Sm th's Point. (Nantucket).

Sterna antillarum.

1870.

July 1. A single pair flying (Muskegat Island, Mass.).

" 11. Found four nests on the Ipswich sandhillsin the space of a few acres. The nests were slight hollows in the bare white sand; two of them contained three eggs each, another two (all fresh) while in a fourth was a young bird a few days old and covered with white down, and an egg nearly hatched.

Addenda 1870 from F.B.Atkinson.

" " A small colony on the Ipswich Sandhills. Found four nests in an area of two or three acres. The eggs lay in slight hollows in the bare sand. In three of the nests they were fresh, the fourth contained a young bird just hatched and one fresh egg. Greatest number of eggs in any nest three. Birds rather shy, hovering over the breeding ground , making a great noise. All that I shot were females. Their flight was extremely graceful, notes a harsh croak and a shrill oit. When flying they looked no larger than Swallows. They did not hover over dead or wounded co mpanions.

1874.

July 4. Nine flying about the harbor near the wharves. They look much smaller than the other Terns, flap their wings more quickly and continuously, plunge from higher elevations (usually about thirty feet), and if they miss their aim rise quickly and drop again, frequently making three or four plunges in half a minute. When poising they flap their wings quickly like a Kingfisher. When one was shot it companions paid no attention to it, passing by without stopping, even when the bird was wounded. Maynard tells me, however, that they do sometimes hover in autumn. They have two notes, one loud and high pitched very like that of the White-bellied Swallow, the other a scolding chatter resembling that of the Wilson's Tern but weaker. (Nantucket).

1876.

May 7. A single bird (Chatham, Mass.).

" 16. Large numbers on a sand spit (Chatham, Mass.).

" 17. About one hundred pairs preparing to breed on Monomoy ~~Iland~~ Island. Their ordinary note is killic, killic, killic, but when chasing one another they utter a loud harsh cry resembling the cloth-ripping one of the Roseate Tern. Sometimes a pair would shoot over the beach with set wings, inclining gracefully to either side, the male uttering its cries incessantly. At such times they flew with arrowy swiftness, reminding me strongly of Chimney Swifts under similar conditions. Like the Chimney Swifts three individuals are frequently seen flying together. When flying over the water they closely resemble Swallows except in color. Sometimes three or four fishing over a school of small fry fairly seem to dance in the air with delight. Occasionally a single bird will come along, flying slowly with a very jerky motion, but usually their wings are moved very gracefully. I saw many passing to and fro with fish in their bills.

Sterna antillarum.

1876.

(May 17) They settled on the sands at low tide in large flocks, sometimes mingling with Sandling. On these occasions they were rather shy, flying before I got within gunshot. (Chatham, Mass.).

Hydrocheliden surinamensis.

1874.

Maine (Lake Urbagog).

Aug. 18. Three flying about over the Lake near the Outlet. Their flight was peculiar and distinctly unlike that of other Terns, resembling more a Swallow's or a Petrel's. They kept for the most part rather high in air, frequently hawking about two or three hundred feet above the water, apparently catching insects. At other times they would fly steadily along with bodies depressed as if intently searching the surface of the Lake. Occasionally one would sweep down to the water like a Gull, but in no instance, during an hour's observation, did I see any of them actually touch the surface. They appeared nearly black and in flight like Nighthawks. The only note heard was a shrill, but feeble kee-ep, keep. I shot two of them when the survivor hovered over its dead companions after the usual manner of terns. The stomachs of those killed were filled entirely with insects, chiefly grasshoppers with a few coleoptera and diptera. Both were fat but their bodies omitted none of the peculiar salty smell characteristic of marine species.

Hydrochelidon surinamensis.

1868.
Sept. 1. An adult shot on the Eel Pond (Rye Beach,N.H.).

1875.
Sept.25. One in a flock of Wilson's Terns at Smith's Point. (Nantucket).

Stercorarius parasiticus.

1867.
Aug. 30. One chased a Tern, forcing it to drop a fish that it had just caught(Salisbery BeachnMass.).

1876.

May 6. One (Chatham, Mass.).

" 17. Five or six at Chatham. The gunners here call them "Sea Hens" and also "Geedy Hawks", the latter probably a corruption of "Giddy Hawk". They usually together in pairs. The flight is different from that of a Gull's, the wing strokes quicker and firmer, while the bird often sails in circles like a Hawk. We repeatedly saw them pick up food from the water, when they drop their feet and in ~~this respect~~ other respects perform the action precisely in the manner of a Gull. They were perfectly silent. The gunners say that they can be readily caught with a hook and line (Chatham, Mass.).

Oceanites oceanica.

1874.
July 11. Abundant between Portsmouth and the ~~Iles~~ Isles of Shoals, in company with Leach's Petrel. Flight swift, skimming and exactly like that of a Swallow. They literally walked on the surface of the water, taking long strides, holding the wings horizont lly and half-spread, but using them only apparently to the keep their balance In this manner they would often proceed several rods, picking up something by the way.

Cymochorea leucorrhoa.

1871.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Oct. 8. Shot a female in Fresh Pond. It came in just as the day was breaking, and after flying about low over the water for a few moments, alighted and began pluming itself and sipping the water. It was very tame.

Cymochorea leucorrhoa.

1874.
July 11. Numerous in company with Wilson's Petrels between Portsmouth and the Isle of Shoals.

Podiceps holbolli.

1867.
Sept.4. Shot an adult in breeding plumage. It was swimming close to the beach and was very tame, several shots being fired at it before it was finally killed. (Plymouth,Mass.)

1874.

Feb. 23. H.B.Bailey secured a specimen at Ward's Island, Boston Harbor. It had been killed there about a week previously.

Feb. 24 Goodale has one which was caught alive on Boston Harbor.

1880.
Mar. 29. A specimen shot at Fox Island on the coast of Maine; and sent me in the flesh by Mr.Hardy, had the iris plain yellow; the bill dark brown with the basal half of the lower mandible and sides of amxilla at base, dull yellow; inner side of tarsi and toes, blotched with orange; the gizzard distended by the usual ball of feathers. Mr.Hardy calls my attention to the bare space on the inner side of the carpal joint which he thinks is produced by the birds using the wing in walking or rather flapping along the ground.

Podiceps cornutus.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

1883.

Oct. 4-5. Rather common. The first specimen killed October 5. They all flied full out into the Lake [illegible] acted like Ducks (see card).

1883.

Oct. 18. A [illegible] on the Lake, [illegible] easily above the arrows.

" 19. Saw about [illegible] on the Lake above [illegible] arrows and shot five.

Podiceps cornutus

1881.
Jan. 3. Two near a rock at the entrance of Swampscott Harbor were very shy and acted exactly like Bied-billed Greebes.

Podilymbus podiceps.

1868.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Sept. 14 Three (Fresh Pond).

" 15. Shot two on the Glacialis, one an adult with a black throat patch.

" 26. One (Fresh Pond).

Oct. 1. Several on Fresh Pond the last. They are exceedingly difficult to shoot diving and only showing a portion of the head above water and often disappearing alltogether, however smooth the surface may be. When not apprehensive of danger they float lightly showing more of the body than many of our Ducks. It is difficult to force them to fly; when they do so , however, they rise rather awkwardly but when fairly started proceed swiftly with the neck stretched out to its full length the head continually turning from side to side.

1869.

Oct. 11. Abundant on Concord River during the past week. The stomach of one which I examined contained a bream nearly five inches in length besides the invariable pellet of feathers.

Nov. 12. One has taken up his abode in a certain cove in Fresh Pond, where he has been seen daily for nearly a month. He is so exceedingly shy and cunning that no one can shoot him.

1871.

Sept.15. Three (Fresh Pond).

Oct. 30. They have been abundant for the past two weeks. One shot at Concord to-day has been seen in the same place in the river for a month past. It was very fat.

1874.

July 21. Saw one swimming in Charles River, Waltham.

1876.

Sept.27. Shot one on Concord River. It was rather tame.

1879.

Oct. 6. Five on Concord River, three playing about in company. I paddled within shot of them without difficulty and killed one with each barrel. For some time previously I watched them from the bushes bordering the bank. They were active and playful continually diving and swimming about. Sometimes one would chase another for a little way. The other two were much shyer; one of them was on the edge of a large bed of floating vegetation into which he swam as I approached, diving there as freely as in open water, showing only the top of his head when he came up. The two that I killed had the irideshazel, the

Podilymbus podiceps.

1879.

Middlesex County, Mass.

(Oct.6) hazel,, the naked snik around the eye yellow. The stomachs contained the usual balls of feathers. That of one in addition a nearly perfect and undigested fish about two inches long; of the other fragments of what I took to be small mussel shells.

" 10. Saw no less than eight of these pretty little Greebes on Concord River. Three were in sight at one time. Most of them were shy and took to diving before we got within range. When not apprehensive of danger they float high on the water and look larger than they really are. One which we saw some distance ahead sailing in mid-stream, dove and did not appear again. Opposite the spot was a dense growth of button bushes growing in shallow water. Suspecting that the bird had sought shelter among them I paddled quietly along the edge scanning every inch of water. At length I discovered the little fellow within two yards of me. His body was not submerged but it was flattened on the water and his head and neck stretched out level on the surface. Under the shade of the overhanging foliage he looked like a withered lily-pad, only the twinkle of his bright eye betraying him. As long as I continued paddling he remained motionless but after we had passed I had stopped and turned my head quickly when he instantly dove, leaving scarcely a ripple.

1880.
Oct. 29. Two on Concord River, looming on upn the surface as large as black Ducks.

1881.
Oct. 22. Two of these Greebes have haunted the River in front of the house for the last two weeks. They can be seen at any hour of the day floating in mid-stream or diving near the beds of weeds. At a distance they look as large as Ducks but when approached sink lower and lower until only the head and neck are visible. Further down the river, I came upon two others to-day. One of them rose with a large fish held crosswise in his bill, and apparently tried to swallow it but its companion pressed it so closely, attempting to steal the prize, that it was prevented from doing so for sometime during which the pursuer and pursued skurried over the surface, half swimming half flying, and constantly doubling and turning.

1882.
Sept.28. Numbers on Concord River, sly and wary as usual, floating buoyantly on the water when at a distance, showing only their necks as we approached, and finally sinking beneath the surface and afterwards raising only their heads to watch us as we passed.

Podilymbus podiceps.

1874.

Maine (Lake Umbagog).

Sept. 3. A young bird still wearing the white image on the head and neck was shot and brought to me.

" 14. One which I chased for sometime in the river, at length took wing, rising without the slightest difficulty and clearing the surface in the distance of a few yards, although there was not so much as a breath of wind. It flew about six hundred yards and alighted again.

1880.

Sept. 17. One at the foot of B. Meadow in the brook, at this season only two or three wide and a few inches deep. Although we hunted, caught it it would not take wing.

1881.

July 22. The head of an adult Pied-billed Grebe, with one of its eggs, was sent to me by Steve Norse, who shot the bird on the nest and broke all the eggs but one. The nest was in the Cranberry Bog near Richards' Lake.

1882.

Oct. 8-22 Common during the early part of my stay. Usually found in shallow water near reeds and lily-pads close in shore.

Podilymbus podiceps.

1875.
Sept.23. One in a small fresh-water pond, I crept within good range and fired both barrels at him. Instead of diving he flapped off along the surface, making for the middle of the Pond. When at a safe distance he stopped, and floating high on the water, and uttering a low mellow honk, almost like thatof a Goose. (Nantucket).

Colymbus torquatus.

Middlesex County, Mass.

1868.
Oct. 3. One on Fresh Pond.

1869.
May 5. One on Fresh Pond this afternoon. We had a heavy rain storm yesterday.

1870.
Nov. 23. One in Fresh Pond this morning. After pluming and washing himself for an hour or two he flew out.

1875.
Apr. 8. Shot a Loon on Concord River., We saw him some distance ahead but he looked so small that we took him to be a whistler. Brushing the boat we paddled towards him. As we approached he turned and swam directly for us, probably taking the boat for a small island, and actually coming within thirty yards of us. Although in good condition he weighed only six pounds. He was in nearly full plumage but still moulting.

1879.

May 5. Saw two swimming together near the middle of Fresh Pond.

" 6. The two seen yesterday were in Fresh Pond again this morning.

Colymbus torquatus.

1873.

Maine (Lake Urabagon).

Aug. 27. While coming down the Lake after dark heard the mournful cries of many Loons.

Sept.15. Shot an adult female in perfect plumage. She weighed eleven pounds and two ounces. Although a ball from my 44 caliber rifle passed directly through the middle of her neck, shattering most of the vertebrae and cutting the jugular vein, she dove twice afterwards and swam for a long distance under water; in fact I had to shoot her again with shot, before she could be captured.

1874.

Aug. 16. Fired twenty-five shots at a Loon which was swimming in the Lake near the Outlet. He rather seemed to enjoy the fun, paying little attention to the bullets other than to rise and flap his wings when one came very near him. I saw another in Leonard's Pond; being cornered by my boat it dove and passed beneath it into the river, marking its course by the line of air bubbles which came to the surface.

" 22. Killed an adult bird in Leonard's Pond. At the first shot my rifle ball passed through his throat severing the tongue at its base. He dove and tried to pass me but was obliged to come up within a few yards when I put another ball through the back of his head killing him instantly. He was a beautiful bird as he lay dead on the surface of the water among the lily-pads; his glossy back frosted with white.

Sept. 2. Coming down the Lake [illegible] a gale of wind I noticed [illegible] early every Loon [illegible] took instead of diving flew; all skimmed the surface with apparent ease.

1879.

May 23. One rose near my boat with a large fish held crossways in his bill, its right scales glaring in the sunlight. It seemed to give him much trouble before he succeeded in swallowing it. During the process which occupied [illegible] minutes he seemed to be at times in real suffering, struggling on the surface and apparently trying in vain to dive.

June 15. Alva Coolidge [illegible] found [illegible] of their nests tells me that Loon's eggs are rarely laid in this region before the middle of June and often not till July. He once, long ago, found a set as late as June 1. There is usually no nest whatever the eggs being simply laid on the bare ground from one to five rods from the water's edge. He has found only one nest in his whole experience; this was a bulky affair entirely composed of grass. No one here has ever seen the male with eggs in a set. The third if surprised on the nest flops clumsily, but with remarkable speed, over the ground to the water's edge;

Colymbus torquatus.

1879.

Maine (Lake Chagogg).

(June 15) it is totally unable to rise in the air from the ground. The majority of the loons are found on islands but an occasional pair of birds will select some remote projecting point.

1880.

May 16. One of its notes, a cry of two syllables, seems like the wind wailing through the rigging of a ship.

June 19. Alva Coolidge s[illegible]red [illegible] and found Loon's nests. They were [illegible] alders at high water mark on islands. He once found a nest (in [illegible] "Pong in the River"), to reach which the Loon had to climb a high bank over some large boulders. Where the stones are [illegible], or muddy, the birds wear a smooth path [illegible] the water's edge. They [illegible] through the [illegible] of floating islands. The eggs are [illegible] on the bare earth in a hollow scraped out by the bird, which, however, [illegible] the nest.

1881.

May 16. A Loon in [illegible] white breast and throat swimming [illegible] close under near the house.

" 20. Several pairs of the Loon.

1882.

Oct. 22-23 A few seen.

Colymbus torquatus.

1867.
Sept.27. Very numerous. (Plymouth,Mass.).

1868.
Aug. 16. Several to-day, but as late as September 1 they had not begun to "fly" (Rye Beach,N.B.).

1870.
Sept.2-10. Common on all the ponds and lakes here. We heard their cries at all hours of the night but seldom in the day time. (Forks of the Kennebec,Maine).

1875.
June 17. At Rindge, New Hampshire, a few miles north of the Massachusetts line we were told that Loons breed every season on some neighboring ponds.

1876.

Apr. 14. Saw two at Point Lepreaux,N.B. to-day.

" 15. A number at Point Lepreaux,N.B.

May 6. Numerous at Chatham, Mass. , calling freely.

" 16. Numerous , one calling (Chatham, Mass.).

Colymbus arcticus.

1876.
Apr. 17. Mr.Thomas, the light-keeper at Point Lepreaux,N.B. assures me that he shot one of these birds there several years ago.

Colymbus septentrionalis.

1874.

Maine (Lake Sebago).

Sept. 11. Saw a young bird [illegible] the middle of the lake. A heavy north-east storm gathering.

Colymbus septentrionalis.

1874.
Nov. 20. One in the river at Ipswich was very shy diving a long distance ahead of us.

1876.
Apr. 17. Saw several flying; they look much smaller than the northern diver and the neck appears very slender. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

Mergulus alle.

1871.

Middlesex County, Mass.

Nov. 15. A heavy easterly gale prevailed all day, with driving sheets of rain and the highest tide known for years. Driven before this storm multitudes of little auks sought refuge in the fresh water ponds and river all along the New England Coast. In Fresh Ponds they were killed bu dozens, coming in usually by two's or three's but sometimes in flocks of thirty or forty. They were very tame although sometimes restless. Several were killed with the oars and others caught alive. They floated lightly on the water frequently rising erec t and flapping their wings. They were continually dressing their plumage, turning nearly over on their backs to do this. When shot at and killed they invariably turned over on their backs and floated with the white breast up. If missed they usually flew to the other end of the pond. When one of two or three was shot the survivers usually dove coming up again within a few yards; but the largest flock when fired into commonly left the pond. Their powers of diving were apparently limited, for they did not remain under ~~legd~~ long, and rarely swam far beneath the surface. Their flight was slow, rather labored and, as several of our gunners remarked, strikingly like a Wood-cook's. They rose from the water with little difficulty. On Charles River in Cambridge they swarmed, many were killed on Mystic Pond, Arlington, and large numbers on Punkapog Canton. They were taken as far up the Merrimac River as Lawrence, on Chituate Lake, and in short nearly every pond and river within twenty miles of the coast. On Concord River they occured in large flocks and were much exhausted many being picked up dead. Some were seen alive there as late as the 19th. Several shot on Fresh Pond the 16th and 17th had their stomachs filled with young Alewifes. Only one out of twenty-seven which I skinned was fat, while the majority were fairlyimaciated. Many were picked up in an exhausted condition in fields, meadows, and even city streets. In Canton seven were found swimming in a puddle in a farmers barnyard.

1876.

Feb. 24. One picked up in exhausted condition in Lexington February 21 by a farmer.

Nov. 20. A heavy north easter, the wind blowing a perfect gale all day prostrating telegraph poles, over throwing shaky buildings and doing much damage among the shipping. Rail fell in torrents from day light till well into the night and the country was flooded. In short this storm was nearly a counterpart for that of November --, 187/--, and similarly was accompanied by an inroad of Little Auks On the 21st, 22d, and 23d a few were seen in this vicinity and one or two shot. The flock was reported on Mystic River. I did not hear of any taken very far inland.

Merglus alle.

1876.
Feb. 24. Mr.Joyce tells me that this bird occurs regularly in plymouth bay every winter, and that it is always common there at that season.

Uria grylle.

1876.

Apr. 12. Numerous at Point Lepreaux,N.B., scattered about singly on the water. All were in adult plumage; they were exceedingly shy and rose easily from the water, flying close to the surface exactly like an Old Squaw, but faster than any Duck of my acquaintance and zig-zaging a little at times.

" 18. Watched a pair through the glass for sometime; they made a clean dive like a Loon, leaving only a faint ring on the water. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).

" " They invariably skim close to the surface of the water inclining to the right or left every few yards and alight exactly like a Coot. (Point Lepreaux,N.B.).